

A full-body illustration of Iron Man in his iconic red and gold armor, standing against a background that transitions from yellow at the top to red at the bottom. The armor features a prominent white diamond-shaped arc reactor on the chest and glowing red lights on the gauntlets and repulsors.

# IRON MAN

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE  
TO THE ARMORED SUPER HERO







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Senior Editor **Alastair Dougall**  
Design Manager **Robert Perry**  
Designers **Nick Avery, Owen Bennett, Jon Hall**  
Managing Editor **Catherine Saunders**  
Art Director **Lisa Lanzarini**  
Publishing Manager **Simon Beecroft**  
Category Publisher **Alex Allan**  
Production Editor **Siu Chan**  
Production Controller **Nick Seston**

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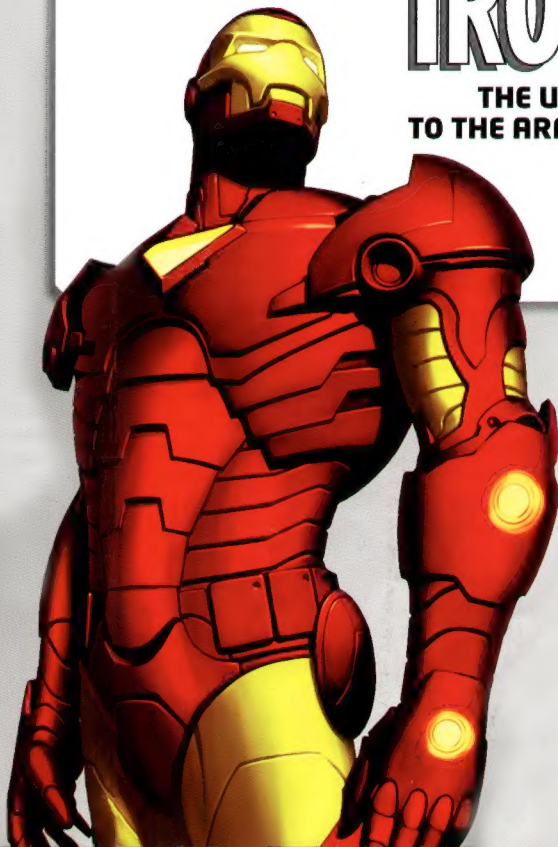
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# IRON MAN

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE  
TO THE ARMORED SUPER HERO

WRITTEN BY  
**MATTHEW K. MANNING**







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# FOREWORD

I like Iron Man, but I love Tony Stark. I'm not sure if the good luck and great time I've had writing *The Invincible Iron Man* has anything to do with that fact, but I suspect so.

Inspired by Howard Hughes and premiering in *Tales of Suspense* in April '63, Stark was the character that Stan Lee always claimed got the most fan mail from women. In 1966, when Grantray-Lawrence Animation made *The Marvel Super Heroes* daily animated series (which aired *The Invincible Iron Man* on Wednesday afternoons) (by "animated," I mean "almost-animated via moving various art elements from the original art from the comics around on-screen"), the *Iron Man* theme song started off with the couplet, "Tony Stark makes you feel he's a cool exec with a heart of steel." The jingle itself began with Stark—not Iron Man.

Here's my thing. In the book—even in my own pages of the book—you can put different people inside the armor and still call the comic and the character Iron Man and it pretty much still flies. He—or she—still has the helmet, the circle or triangle doodad on the chest, light-up palms, sometimes even rocket-skates in the boots. Flying, that's important. It's fine. It's fun. It works.

Because the suit is the future and that's always fun to watch. Tony is its test pilot, its inventor. And that combo resonates like a tuning fork deep within us.

There's a thing I think we all relate to in Super Hero stories, no matter what media they come to us wrapped in, that helps explain their enduring popularity. I believe "Super Heroes" endure because of the transformative moment—the instant where our hero becomes something more.

Name for me a single Super Hero—in comics, film, TV, wherever—where, the whole time they're running around in their Super Hero guise there's a part of you waiting the alter ego to go away so they can return to their civilian life. I can't really think of anybody other than Tony Stark who, depending on the day, is at least as interesting and fun to watch as Iron Man. You can't wait for Robert Downey Jr. to get back on screen and, if an *Iron Man* creative team is doing its job right, you shouldn't have to wait long for Tony Stark to get back on-panel, either.

This isn't the most original thought of the world, but I think that the common link in all the great stories and myths and characters that resonate with us is transformation. I believe that every great and lasting myth, legend, fable, film, pulp, or pop fiction that's ever captured popular imagination did so because, at its root, someone or something starts off in the story as one thing that we recognize with some degree of shame, regret, or empathy and, through crisis and resolution, becomes something greater *than*, and we, the audience, on some level, take at best inspiration and at worst are entertained by that transformative journey. All the stories we love are, in some ways, aspirational or cautionary tales of transformation. Of evolution. And I think Super Hero stories hit us the way they do because we literally see the transformation. It's not a wound being healed, it's not a wrong being righted—it's a man becoming superman. Or Superman or Spider-Man or Iron Man as the case may be. We are witness to the miraculous transformation and it just sends us.

Throw in a dash of danger—a sense of rescue to it all—of flesh and blood people digging deep and fighting back—and you've got yourself some mythic resonance.

Tony Stark is a man rescuing his fellow man, a man transforming himself, a man taking the reins of evolution in his teeth and forcing it to go where he wants it to go.

And he looks amazing in a tuxedo.

Here's to you, Tony.

## MATT FRACTION

WRITER OF *THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN*

Portland, Oregon  
September 2009



# INTRODUCING IRON MAN



Iron Man has always looked towards the future. From his debut in the pages of *Tales of Suspense* #39, to the most recent issue of his fifth ongoing comic series, his billionaire alter ego Tony Stark has been in a constant state of reinvention. Stark's goal? To stay one step ahead of the competition, and to lead by heroic example.

When he first appeared on the scene, Tony clad himself in a bulky gray armor with all the style and panache of an fire hydrant. His evolution into a hero was just beginning. His look soon transformed into that of an atomic knight in golden shining armor and then to the robotic equivalent of a hot rod. Flash with substance. The idea of piloting their own Iron Man armor became a daydream for thousands of readers. But Tony Stark was just getting warmed up.

Over the years, Iron Man has remained on the cutting edge of technology, adapting to the future almost before its arrival. Tony Stark has been a war profiteer, a playboy, a Super Hero financier, an electronics pioneer, a humanitarian, a business consultant, a computer technician, a super-spy and even the US Secretary of Defense. But always at his core, Tony Stark has been Iron Man, a visual symbol of heroism, change and faith in science to shape a better world.

**He's Iron Man. The Golden Avenger. Shellhead. But most importantly, he's Tony Stark, one of the greatest minds of his generation.**

# THE BIRTH OF IRON MAN

The brainchild of some of the most creative individuals ever to work in the comic book medium, Iron Man made his dramatic debut on the cover to *Tales of Suspense* #39.

By March of 1963, comic book writer and editor Stan Lee was getting pretty sure of himself. And by all accounts, he had every right to be. Working alongside already legendary artists like Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko, Lee had ushered in what was to be known as the Marvel Age of comics. Just a few short months earlier, in November of 1961, Lee and Kirby had introduced the world to the Fantastic Four, in their title's premier issue. They followed up that hit with the debut of the Hulk in May of the following year. Then, teaming with Ditko, Lee introduced Spider-Man that September in the pages of *Amazing Fantasy*'s 15th and final issue. With the introduction of Thor and Ant-Man soon to follow, Lee had a string of runaway successes on his hands, and he felt that practically anything he touched would turn to gold.

So he set out to test that theory. In an increasingly idealistic, anti-establishment age of Civil Rights and anti-Vietnam War protest, Lee decided to create a character that the readership wouldn't readily identify with. He created a weapons designer who worked for the government, rather than rebelling against it. Instead of an everyman character like Spider-Man, who gained instant sympathy from his readers due to his identifiable problems and inner conflicts, Lee created a millionaire playboy, aloof from society's ills and immune to any financial concerns. Despite all these apparent handicaps, Iron Man was a hit with the public—just as Lee had suspected all along.

Lee understood that like all great characters, Tony Stark just needed a touch of tragedy to humanize him. By making Tony injured in a wartime attack and forced to wear a metal chest plate in order to survive, Lee created sympathy for an otherwise detached character. In an unprecedented occurrence in Lee's experience, Iron Man began to receive more mail from female readers than any of his other popular titles, a fact Lee attributed to an inborn maternal instinct to take care of this romantically tragic figure.

Stan Lee had once more created a hero with a lasting fan base and media legacy. Iron Man first appeared sporting a gray suit of armor; as if to reflect Lee's own Midas touch, by Iron Man's second appearance, the color of his armor had turned to gold.



At the time, keeping a consistent shade of gray was a troublesome challenge for a newsprint press. To remedy the situation, Stan Lee decided to have Iron Man paint his armor gold (which conveniently printed as yellow) in his second appearance.



"Here you have this character, who on the outside is invulnerable, I mean, just can't be touched, but inside is this wounded figure. Stan made it very much an in-your-face wound, you know, his heart was broken, literally broken."

**Iron Man writer Gerry Conway**

## THE CREATORS

### STAN LEE

The creator behind hundreds of Marvel characters, Stan "The Man" Lee not only helped to usher in Marvel's rise to fame in the 1960s, but also served as a guiding force behind the company for years in a myriad of forms, including writer, editor, president, and chairman. Lee wrote nearly all of Iron Man's original adventures, inventing a gallery of villains for the hero, including the Mandarin and the Crimson Dynamo, as well as many supporting characters, such as Tony's longtime allies Pepper Potts and Happy Hogan. Legendary for his enthusiasm as a spokesman for all things Marvel, Stan even made a cameo in the 2008 Iron Man feature film, playing a Hugh Hefner-like playboy bachelor.

### LARRY LIEBER

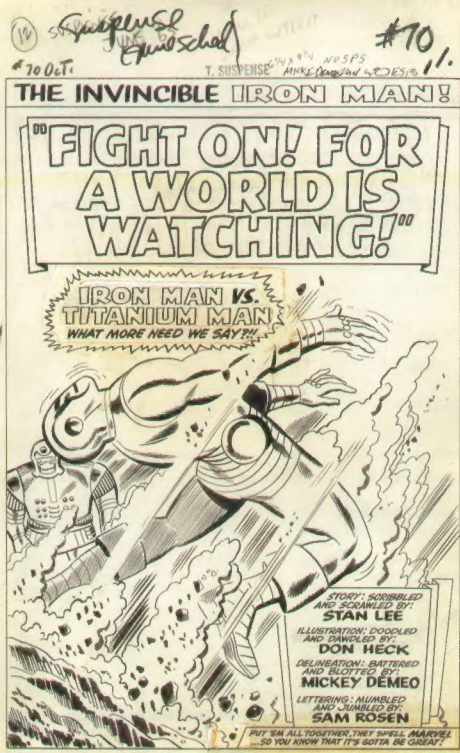
Stan Lee's younger brother, writer Larry Lieber opted not to alter the family name as his brother had done. A newspaper cartoonist as well as a scribe, Lieber's main claim to fame was his scripting Iron Man's first appearance in *Tales of Suspense* #38. With Stan only providing the plot of Iron Man's legendary origin, Larry provided the dialog over Don Heck's pencils. It was Larry who conceived the name Tony Stark, as Stan was in the habit of giving characters first and last names that began with the same letter, just to make them more memorable in his own mind.

### DON HECK

Although he didn't design the Iron Man armor itself, Don Heck did just about everything else to bring Tony Stark's adventures to life. The inker artist for *Tales of Suspense* #38, as well as most of Iron Man's other early exploits, Don Heck created the dramatic pacing that kept readers coming back for more. Designing the look of millionaire Tony Stark based on Stan Lee's suggestion of a Howard Hughes-type personality, Heck gave the character a trademark mustache, adding a dash of famous ensnaring actor Errol Flynn to Tony's appearance. Over the years, Heck would design many other characters in Shellhead's life, including Pepper Potts and Happy Hogan.

### JACK KIRBY

The guiding force behind Marvel Comics' trademark look in the 1960s, Jack "the King" Kirby's work is as popular today as it was 40 years ago. Always experimenting with his craft and pushing the boundaries of forced perspective and dynamic storytelling, Kirby had already co-created dozens of Marvel icons, from Captain America to the Fantastic Four. Knowing Kirby's flair for creating characters that resonated with readers, Lee looked Jack with designing Iron Man for the cover of the all-important *Tales of Suspense* #38. While Iron Man's look has evolved and changed many times over the years, Kirby's vision of a robotic suit of armor is still fondly remembered by fans as a symbol of the classic Marvel Age.



This original art for the splash page for *Tales of Suspense* #70 showcases Stan Lee's lighthearted credit box, which was one of his trademarks. Lee always made sure his staff were acknowledged for their work, something rarely seen at the time.



# TALES OF **#39** SUSPENSE



**"You are not facing a wounded, dying man now... or an aged, gentle professor! This is Iron Man who opposes you, and all you stand for!"**

IRON MAN

**MAIN CHARACTERS:** Iron Man; Wong-Chu; Professor Yinsen

**SUPPORTING CHARACTERS:** An unnamed general and US government employees; female socialites; prisoners and soldiers of Wong-Chu's camp

**LOCATIONS:** Stark Industries; Wong-Chu's South Vietnam camp; US military camp in South Vietnam

## PUBLICATION DATE

March 1963

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Stan Lee

## COVER ARTIST

Jack Kirby and Don Heck

## PLOTTER

Stan Lee

## SCRIPTER

Larry Lieber

## PENCILER/INKER

Don Heck

## LETTERER

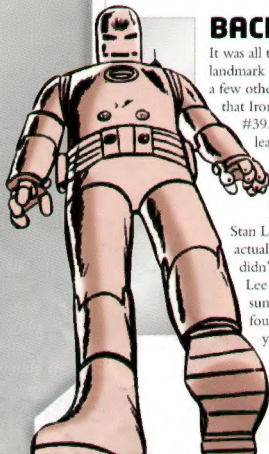
Art Simek

## BACKGROUND

It was all told in a mere 13 pages. Despite having his landmark debut crammed into an anthology comic with a few other science fiction stories, there was no question that Iron Man was the true star of *Tales of Suspense*

#39. Not only was this fledgling hero given the lead story feature, his top billing was also touted on the cover, with a blurb proclaiming that Iron Man had sprung from the same creative well as Spider-Man and the Fantastic Four.

And for the most part, he did. Iron Man was Stan Lee's brainchild, but when the time came to actually pen his initial tale, Lee's busy schedule didn't permit him to script the hero's first outing. Lee plotted the adventure and handed the story summary to artist Don Heck. The dialog chores found their way to the desk of Larry Lieber, Stan's younger brother, and co-conspirator on another Marvel icon, the mighty Thor. The result was another certified success for Marvel, and Iron Man remained at the helm of *Tales of Suspense* for the rest of the title's lifespan.



# The Story...

**Millionaire Tony Stark suffers a debilitating injury and is taken captive by communist forces, only to escape by creating a new identity as Iron Man.**

Tony Stark was always a bit of a showboat. A millionaire munitions manufacturer, well regarded for his brilliant technological innovations that were often employed by the US military, Tony lived a life of luxury and acclaim. He had a girl hanging on his arm at every party, and a prospective client listening on his every word at any business meeting. He had just vowed one of his military associates with a demonstration of his newest invention: high-powered miniature translators (1). By attaching one of these small devices to a normal everyday magnet, Stark was able to rip a thick, steel door right off its hinges (2). The demonstration was more than enough to impress the general in charge, and Tony was given a contract to help aid US forces in Vietnam.

Meanwhile, in the heart of the jungles of that war-torn country, communist leader Wong-Chu (3) was enjoying his own exhibition. The unscrupulous commander of a band of guerrillas, Wong-Chu had just added another conquered village to his fiefdom and, as was his custom, had issued a challenge to the male inhabitants. If one of them could best him in a wrestling match, he would set the entire village free. Several villagers accepted Wong-Chu's challenge, but the tyrant dispatched each one with ease. Once again, Wong-Chu was victorious.

Tony Stark's arrival in Vietnam threatened to change that. Unable to transport heavy artillery through the jungle, the heads of a US military base near Wong-Chu's latest camp were testing Stark's new miniature translators in hand-held mortars. Tony wanted to see the action firsthand (4). But when he accidentally set off a booby-trapped trip wire (5), he was knocked unconscious by the resulting explosion, with a piece of shrapnel lodged dangerously near his heart. To make matters worse, the helpless businessman was soon captured by the communist forces and brought back to Wong-Chu's camp.

Fortunately, like most of the civilized world, Wong-Chu had heard of Tony Stark. So rather than kill the brilliant inventor outright, the communist leader instead instructed Tony to build a weapon that would help in combating the American forces (6). In exchange, Wong-Chu promised to have his finest surgeon see to Tony's heart and cure him of his condition. Knowing that Wong-Chu had no intention of giving him any medical treatment, Tony agreed to the terrorist's terms, and set out with his own agenda. He would build a suit of armor that would not only help sustain his life, but would also be his means of escape.

With the aid of Professor Yinsen (7), a fellow prisoner and brilliant physicist whom the world at large believed dead, Stark constructed an iron suit of armor, powered by his experimental translators. Donning the armor just as his heart began to fail, Stark lay down on a table, waiting for the suit to fully charge and for its electronic translators to save his life (8). In order to stall Wong-Chu's approaching troops, Professor Yinsen ran madly into the hallway only to be gunned down by the tyrant's men. The momentary diversion was as Stark needed, and as Iron Man, he made his escape from his living quarters.

Later, as Wong-Chu dispatched yet another hopeful in a wrestling match, a new challenger called to him from the crowd. While Wong-Chu gawked in disbelief at the metal marvel standing before him, Iron Man attacked his foe, and easily bested him (9). Fighting through a hail of bullets, Iron Man took down Chu's entire camp, before defeating the fleeing tyrant himself by trapping him in an explosion of a nearby ammunition shed (10). Trapped inside his iron shell and alone in the Vietnamese jungle, Iron Man disappeared into the wilderness, pondering where his new life of his would take him next (11).



"I know I've only days to live, but my last act will be to defeat this grinning, smirking, red terrorist!"





# THE SUIT'S POWERS

They say the clothes make the man, and Tony Stark would have no reason to argue. Iron Man's actions make him a hero, but his armor is what gets the job done.



## CHEST PLATE

The Iron Man chest plate has been of special importance to Tony Stark ever since he first donned his armor. Originally structured to keep his injured heart beating through the use of a magnetic-field generator, the chest piece was soon adapted to serve as one of the many offensive tools in Iron Man's arsenal. While he no longer needs the armor to keep himself alive, Iron Man frequently relies on his chest plate's powerful unibeam in battle.

Capable of firing a blast similar to that of his repulsors, the unibeam can also function as a searchlight able to project in nearly every spectrum, even infrared and ultraviolet. The unibeam can also produce a local electro-magnetic pulse, a laser beam, holographic images, and a wavelength scanner.



## JET BOOTS

Also utilizing repulsor technology, Iron Man's jet boots have often played a vital part in his adventures. Powered by scramjet and air-jet propulsion systems as well as afterburner thrust, the jet boots are the armor's main utility for transportation and can fly at speeds of up to Mach 8. In addition, when Iron Man wants to take things a bit slower, perhaps to survey an enemy installation, the boots take advantage of a localized gravity field, granting the armor hovering capabilities. Combining the boots' raw power with the usage of Tony's in-flight computer and built-in gyroscope, Iron Man is able to maintain his balance and follow any trajectory of his choosing. In earlier models, Tony installed magnetic suction cups in his boots to allow him to do his best impression of Spider-Man and adhere to flat surfaces.



## REPULSORS

Tony's magnetic repulsor beams have always been the cornerstones of his Iron Man technology. Originally utilizing high-powered transistorized magnets capable of localized repelling force, Stark soon refined the tech into his modern-day repulsor blasts. Essentially a powerful particle beam, the ray can be focused to a narrow area, or be dispersed to cover a wider range. When fired from his gauntlets at an enemy target, the repulsors have the ability to repel energy and physical attacks alike.

In addition, the Iron Man armor allows Tony to switch to pulse bolts, which are also focused through his palm apertures. Segmented flashes of energy, the pulse bolts actually grow stronger and more powerful the longer the distance they travel, giving Iron Man the perfect weapon for long-range attacks against particularly daunting foes.

# THE SUIT

Communications  
antenna array

Multispectral thermal  
camouflage

Audio  
processing unit

Encrypted safety  
seal

Trident probe

Conductive mesh  
insulating

Neck (matrix)

External  
armor

Right palm  
repulsor  
coil  
exhaust

Left palm  
repulsor coil

Right palm  
repulsor coil

Knee padding

Left knee  
repulsor  
coil  
exhaust

Right knee  
repulsor  
coil  
exhaust

Foot attitude sensor

Foot padding

REAR



## HEADPIECE DETAILING

Originally constructed in three separate pieces, Tony Stark upgraded his helmet so that it could slip on over his head in a single motion.

Everything about the Iron Man suit has been streamlined for efficiency in battle situations, as well as for quick and easy assembly. When Tony upgraded to the Extremis technology, his wardrobe changes became almost instantaneous.

Chin brace

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The Iron Man helmet is a complex piece of machinery, designed to protect Tony Stark's head and face while providing him with a wide range of sensory input. The helmet is constructed from a combination of advanced materials, including titanium, carbon fiber, and Kevlar, and is reinforced with a series of internal bracing structures. The helmet's design is highly aerodynamic, allowing it to withstand high-speed travel and impact. The helmet's visor is a key feature, providing Tony with a clear view of the world around him while also protecting his eyes. The visor is made of a special material that can withstand high temperatures and is capable of displaying a variety of information, including tactical data and sensor readings. The helmet's internal systems are highly sophisticated, allowing Tony to control the suit's various functions while wearing the helmet. The helmet's design is a testament to Tony's ingenuity and his commitment to creating the ultimate Iron Man suit.

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# THE ARMOR

1963 to 1988

Tony Stark has gone through dozens of Iron Man suits since his first explosive heroic debut, improving and refining his armor each and every time.

## THE GRAY ARMOR

1963



Utilizing Tony Stark's innovation of miniaturized transistors, his original gray armor was hastily constructed out of spare parts while Tony was held captive in Wong-Chu's camp. Although primitive by today's standards, Iron Man's original suit was equipped with powerful magnets that became the basis for his revolutionary repulsor system. Streamlining the armor after returning home, Tony altered the metal to make it thinner and more pliable.

18-19

Stark spray-paints his gray armor gold.



## GOLDEN AVENGER

1963

While rescuing a circus crowd from an assortment of escaped big cats, Tony realized the frightening effect his gray Iron Man armor had on the public. In order to make his appearance less threatening, Stark coated his armor in shiny, unattractable gold paint, literally turning himself into a modern-day knight in shining armor. Tony continued to add new gadgets to his suit, including wheels, a heat ray, and a force field.



## THE RED/GOLD ARMOR

1963

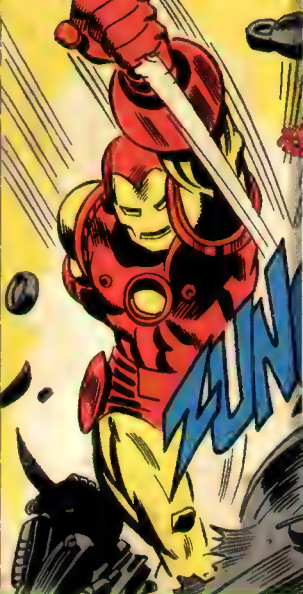
Tony still wasn't satisfied with his armor's bulky nature, despite many tweaks and upgrades. During a conflict with the vicious gangster, Mr. Bull, Tony created a brand-new suit, featuring a red and gold color scheme. Unlike its predecessor, this new armor was much easier to get on and off, as its individual, collapsible sections partially assembled themselves with the help of magnetic devices.

The red and gold armor was equipped with a heat repulsor ray, a light beam, a wrist calculator

and energy monitor, and a radio receiver.

Iron Man's red and gold armor was much more compact than the original.





## THE ICONIC ARMOR

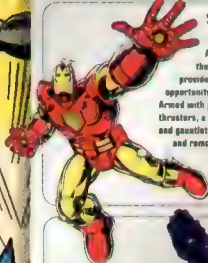
1964

It's in Tony Stark's nature to constantly design and redesign. Thus Iron Man's most memorable look was more the result of a series of improvements than one dramatic overhaul. After streamlining his mask during a battle with the Mandarin, Tony continued to experiment with design and function, improving every aspect of his armor's performance, from its repulsor rays to its roller wheels. Iron Man's suit soon possessed numerous gadgets, such as a reverse ray, a black-light tracer, a built-in generator, a chemical spray, explosive darts, and a diamond-tipped blade. In addition, Iron Man was able to seal his armor for brief underwater travel, utilizing a back-up air supply.

## HYDRO ARMOR MK 1

1987

Built for long expeditions under water, Iron Man's first attempt at deep-sea armor was equipped with several hours worth of oxygen, enabling the warrior to travel miles while submerged. Able to withstand even the strongest pressures found at the ocean floor, Iron Man's hydro armor also had a searchlight and a sonar system.



## STEALTH ARMOR

1981

While on a rescue mission in Germany, Tony put his dark stealth armor to use for the first time. Constructed of polarized metal-mesh, Iron Man's stealth armor was built with only the most minor of defenses, in order to make room for espionage equipment like sound-dampened boot jets, a radar-homing wave modifier, a sonic scanning device, and a miniature spy camera.

## SPACE ARMOR MK 1

1981

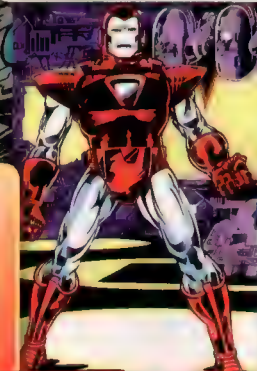
A visit to a satellite owned by the corrupt Raxxon Oil company, provided Iron Man with the ideal opportunity to test his new space armor. Armed with jet-powered rocket boots, nuclear thrusters, a radar scanner, a zero-beam and gasjets capable of being disengaged and remote controlled, Iron Man's space armor could handle the rigors and challenges of an airless vacuum with ease.



## RECOVERY ARMOR

1985

After Tony had temporarily handed his beloved Iron Man duties over to Jim Rhodes, he still found himself tinkering with armor designs. As a result, Tony created his recovery armor, a close replica to his original gray design, but with a few improvements here and there.



## SILVER CENTURION

1985

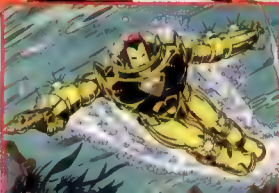
To finally overcome the machinations of the villainous Shashid Bane, Iron Man piloted a new, more powerful version of his armor. With a built-in computational computer, radar invisibility, holographic camouflage, energy absorption and radiation-shield capabilities, powerful gauntlet bolts, a protection field, and the ability to fly into Earth's upper atmosphere, the Silver Centurion armor truly made Iron Man a force to be reckoned with.



## NEO CLASSIC

1988

While waging his infamous Armor Wars, Tony constructed a new suit of armor that improved on all his past designs. Built to trick the world into thinking a new man was piloting the Iron Man suit, his new red and gold design was armed with a gauntlet-projected energy shield, a more powerful pulse bolt, enhanced speed, rapid-fire sequencing, and an electromagnetic pulse beam.



# THE ARMOR

1993-2000

## NEUROMIMETIC TELEPRESENCE UNIT

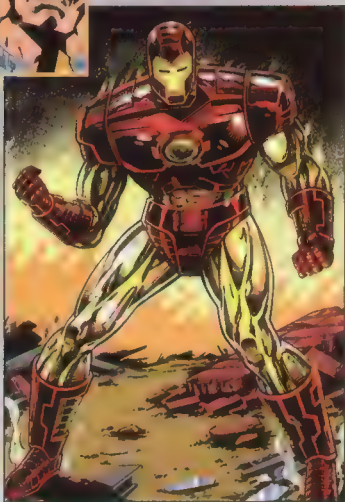
1993

Tony Stark had been experimenting with encephalic circuits in his helmet that could control a suit of Iron Man armor by remote control. He was soon forced to put this new technology to practical use. Experimental surgery to equip his body with an artificial nervous system had just saved his life, but Tony awoke from the operation to find that he was completely paralyzed. With the help of his old friend Alton Zimmer and a neural interface headpiece, Tony was able to create a new and improved remote-controlled armor operated by his brainwaves and voice commands.



Early remote-controlled armor.

VR Mask



## WAR MACHINE ARMOR

1992

Tony Stark secretly designed the War Machine armor with his friend Jim Rhodes' combat skills in mind. Iron Man first wore the War Machine suit into battle when facing the ninjas known as the Masters of Science. Later, when circumstances forced Tony to take his own death, he bestowed this silver suit of armor to Rhodes, asking him to carry on his legacy as Iron Man. In his absence, Rhodes agreed, but later changed his name to War Machine in a bid for independence when he discovered that Tony's death was a sham.



## MODULAR ARMOR

1994

When Tony Stark regained full control over his armor, it didn't take him long to bring back the battle as Iron Man. With the help of his computer program JARVIS, Tony manufactured an innovative new design that re-examined the basic construction of Iron Man. Instead of a single integrated suit, Tony created a modular component system that could be reconfigured by swapping out various sub-systems such as heads, gloves, or helmets. This allowed Iron Man to "dress for the occasion," bringing only the equipment and technology needed for

## HULKBUSTER MK 1

1994

As part of his modular armor system, Tony created the Hulkbuster suit, with impact-resistant carbon-composites and a magneto-hydraulic pseudomusculature rated at 175 tons. This armor was tough enough to handle even the fiercest battle with the green colossus known as the Incredible Hulk.



## THE CROSSING 1995

Corrupted by the power of the time-spanning villain Immortus, Iron Man slowly began to lose control of his faculties. Under Immortus' thrall, Tony Stark set up shop in a remote Arctic fortress, and designed a blue and white snowsuit to aid his travel to and from his new base. Soon Tony designed another new look to fit his personality shift; this new, highly sophisticated armor possessed prototype teleportation abilities.



## SENTIENT ARMOR 2000

Once in a while, Tony Stark's scientific genius threatened to make his armor too advanced. Constantly adding to the capabilities of his new armor, he finally went too far. Compact enough to be transformed into a small, metal backpack-like case, Tony's latest Iron Man costume was brought to life in a Frankensteinesque manner by a stray bolt of lightning. Tony's suit proceeded to battle its inventor for control. It possessed both sentience and a desire for independent life as strong as that of any animal. However, the man finally overcame the machine.



## YOUNG TONY MK 1 1996

After being recruited from the past to fight the Iron Man he was destined to become, a younger version of Tony Stark was forced to don an unused Iron Man suit in order to do battle with his older counterpart. With the Avengers by his side, young Tony's new armor stood up against Iron Man's every attack, until the older Tony unleashed a near-fatal blow that crippled the young boy's fragile heart.



## YOUNG TONY MK 2 1996

Built from a variety of spare parts found around Avengers Mansion, including an everyday kitchen blender and toaster, young Tony invented his own Iron Man suit. He used the notes of his now-deceased elder to guide him along the way. A work in progress, just like many other versions of the armor, young Tony's suit included hyper-thrust boot propulsion, thermo-screen shielding, built-in gyro-stabilizers, and a variety of lasers.

## PROMETHEUM ARMOR 1996

Stranded in a pocket universe with no memory of his past, Tony found himself once again reinventing the wheel as he created his promethium Iron Man armor. Equipped with a wide array of sensory input, regulator housings, a chest laser, tractor beam, and advanced life-support technology, the promethium armor withstood the ferocity of a rampaging Hulk.

## RETRO ARMOR 1998

Back in his proper dimension, Iron Man began a new arc in his life. Accordingly, he created a new suit of armor. This version showcased various favorite battle-tested innovations, including heat jets, rifle and pulse beams, and balancing gyros. Iron Man's new retro armor also offered a number of improved features, such as computerized target locking and firing, inertia dampening fields, advanced sensors, night-vision capabilities, and miniature explosive charges.



Sentient foldaway mode.





# THE ARMOR

The 21st Century

22-23



## SPACE ARMOR 2000

Iron Man got the chance to test his newest suit outfitted for an outer space environment when he was forced to confront Justin Hammer onboard the criminal's satellite base. With a thin layer of compression gel protecting his body from the elements, the newly improved space armor was much slimmer than previous models. It also offered detachable solid fuel boosters, compressed gas maneuvering pods, and a solar sail capable of automatic piloting during reentry.



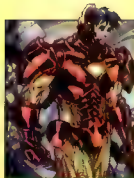
## SKIN ARMOR 2001

Acquiring new technology from Manhattan's Rahow Labs, Iron Man constructed his SKIN armor using revolutionary liquid metal circuitry that shaped around Iron Man's body in a nearly unbreakable shell. Yet when not in use, the substance could be compressed to the size of a baseball. To augment this impressive armor, Tony added smart bomb probes, an energy blade that could extend into a shield, channel-like capabilities, and a holographic projector.

## TIN MAN ARMOR

2002

Signifying a return to basics, Iron Man's tin man armor resembled older tried and tested armor models with less of an emphasis on cutting-edge tech. Still containing a wide variety of weapons and surveillance gear, the tin man armor incorporated Tony's own personal secretary of sorts into its circuitry. Called Friday, this computer program was capable of doing everything from analyzing rare poisons to holding unwanted telephone calls.



## STEALTH ARMOR MK 3 2002

When tracking down the seemingly renegade Black Panther, Iron Man utilized his latest model stealth armor. Composed of advanced composite ceramics, the armor was capable of projecting holograms onto its surface and making the wearer virtually invisible. Ideal for espionage missions, the suit also had an innovative noise-reduction engine, but only possessed the ability to fire three regular shots. The armor contained absolutely no metal, and instead was built with experimental bio-neural gel-pack circuitry.



## THORBUSTER ARMOR 2003

When Iron Man was forced to battle Thor, he adopted magical armor powered by the same enchantment that gives Thor's famous magic hammer Mjolnir its strength. Combining the strength of Thor with his own power, Iron Man gave the thunder god a run for his money.



## ABLATIVE ARMOR 2003

When facing an alien entity that had the ability to adhere to electronics and sensors with artificial life, Tony decided to give his ablation armor a test run. Lined with thousands of high-impact polymer tiles, this suit was designed to shed tiles in the event of damage. When an enemy missile hit the armor, the damaged tiles would simply pop off. Unfortunately, a polymer tile on the back of the suit produced more tiles, which the armor's force field locked in place.

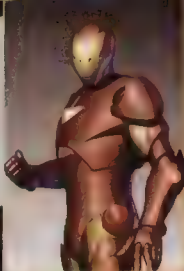




## EXTREMIS ARMOR

2005

The Extremis armor is Iron Man's most advanced to date. Tony utilized Extremis virus technology to literally rewrite his body's own functions into a superior fusion of man and machine. With Extremis tech in his system, Tony could link with satellites or any other technological device, simply with the power of thought.



## HIGH-G ARMOR

2006

Bulky and heavy, similar to his three previous outer space suits, Tony's High-G (high-gravity) armor was constructed with stability very much in mind.

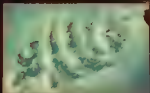
With magnetic and jet components and advanced health readings at his fingertips, the High-G suit allowed Iron Man to survive and stay oriented while being rocketed through space, and even withstand an ionomagnetic battle with Thanos' Min.



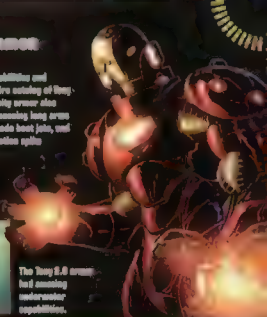
## HYPERVELOCITY ARMOR

2007

With near-limitless computing capabilities and storage—enough to house the entire catalog of Tony Stark's inventions—the Hypervelocity armor also contained superior firepower. Possessing long arms with multiple submachine, machine-made heat jets, and a telescoping supercompression induction spine with a compressed-air lubricated that allowed for near-instantaneous speeds of movement. Indeed, the armor was specifically designed Tony S.I.



The Tony S.I. armor had amazing maneuverability.



## HULKBUSTER MK 2 ARMOR

2007

When Tony Stark helped exile the Hulk into outer space, he had planned for the contingency that the Green Goliath might somehow return to Earth. Wearing his largest, most protective suit of armor, Iron Man challenged the Hulk to a physical confrontation above Manhattan, while simultaneously broadcasting an inspiring address to the nation. Despite the Hulkbuster armor's remarkable durability and firepower, the Hulk made short work of Iron Man's impressive new toy.



## HYDRO ARMOR MK2

2006

When pursuing a conflict to the undersea kingdom of Atlantis, R-Mn member Wolverine recruited help from his fellow New Avenger Iron Man. Using one of Tony Stark's new deep-sea diving suits, Wolverine was able to stand the outside pressures of the ocean's floor and continue to hunt down his prey.



[illegible]

# TONY STARK

**At age 15, he enrolled in MIT. By 21, he was running one of the largest companies in North America. Anthony "Tony" Stark has always been ahead of the pack, the curve, and his time.**

[illegible][illegible]

Drayton explains how, as a composer with his divided attention, Mr. Frutkin has had to use improvisation to make his live show work with his wife, Herbert, various sound effects, and without failure. Only the yearning for the word "missus" after the first section pulled it all over the top and closed with a new plot. It seems a little like the anatomy of the complete musical, as put together by Drayton.

[illegible]

1. The first step is to identify the main topic of the document.

## KEY DATA

**FULL NAME** Anthony Edward "Tony" Stark

**SHAGBEE Iron Mine**, also known as  
Shadhead and The Golden Avenue

INVEST 0121 in WISCONSIN 2005 Rep  
FIVE Star HOME Bank

**UNKNOWN RELATIVES** Martin Collins  
Carltonell Stark and Howard Anthony  
Stark (parents, deceased), Morgan Stark  
(uncle), Edward Stark (niece, deceased),  
Isaac Stark, Jr., Isaac Stark, Jr. (grandsons,  
deceased)

**DOUGLAS** Adversum, CEO of Stark Industries, former Director of SWHLR, former head of the initiative, founder of the Maria Stark Foundation, former CEO of Stark International, Stark Solutions, Stark Enterprises, Circuits Maximum, former US Secretary of Defense, former incubator for Antares Electronics

Aspinto has numerous easy-to-follow, easy-to-do, and easy-to-understand exercises designed to help you lose weight, improve your cardiovascular fitness, and increase your overall health. The book is divided into two main sections: the first section contains 100 exercises, and the second section contains 100 exercises. Each exercise is illustrated with a photograph and a brief description of the exercise. The book is a great resource for anyone looking to improve their health and fitness.

# The Wit and Wisdom of Tony Stark

All of those who wonder why **Iron Man** risks his life time and time again... if they could feel the indescribable **exhilaration** of flying in an armored suit, they'd wonder **no more!**

Two can play the game of gadgets, rabbit ears! On the other hand, there's a classic **simplicity** to a good **right hand job** that's not to be denied!

All right, Doom, you've won that round. But that's only **check... not check-mate!**

If you want to **rescind sound**, get back out of the line of fire.

Head butting like this could get me thrown out of most wrestling bouts—but I'm not fighting for trophies here! I'm fighting for **my life!**

No one has the right to defy the wishes of his government... not even Iron Man!

My appearance terrifies women and children as if I were a **monster!** I'm a frightening sight to the very people I want to aid and protect!

But could I have married Janice? Would it have been fair with a heart like mine?

Firebrand, you've come up with a costume that has powers and protection nearly **equal** to mine... How can you so **insanely misuse** it?!

What about **my** cause? What is it I'm fighting for? Whatever it **is**, I must **live** for it... and **die** for it.



I went from being a man trapped in an Iron suit to being a man freed by it.

There is a pollution crisis in the world, but it can't be solved by taking the first **hysterical action!**

I don't deal in weapons any more... I'm more interested in creating the future than blowing it up.

Being a man in a metal suit doesn't solve any problems... It just gives you a whole lot of new ones to think about.

You can't let somebody else do your suffering for you.

Can I have a personal relationship with anyone and continue to function as Iron Man should?

I won't waste time defending the **past** or arguing about the **present** while a man's in **danger!**

I guess, in the final **reckoning**, it does add up... the life of a Super Hero has **meaning...** and **purpose.**

**Hiding?** Is that what it's **come** to? Hiding my feelings, my life—behind an **iron mask?**

This is the most **sophisticated**, most astonishing invention I've ever constructed! But that's the precise reason... why it has to be **destroyed!**

With all the pain and sorrow my other armor caused, I shudder to think what could happen if this fell into **evil hands.**

I've learned that free will isn't a gift—it's a muscle which needs to be exercised—and only when it's in peak condition—is a man truly **awake.**



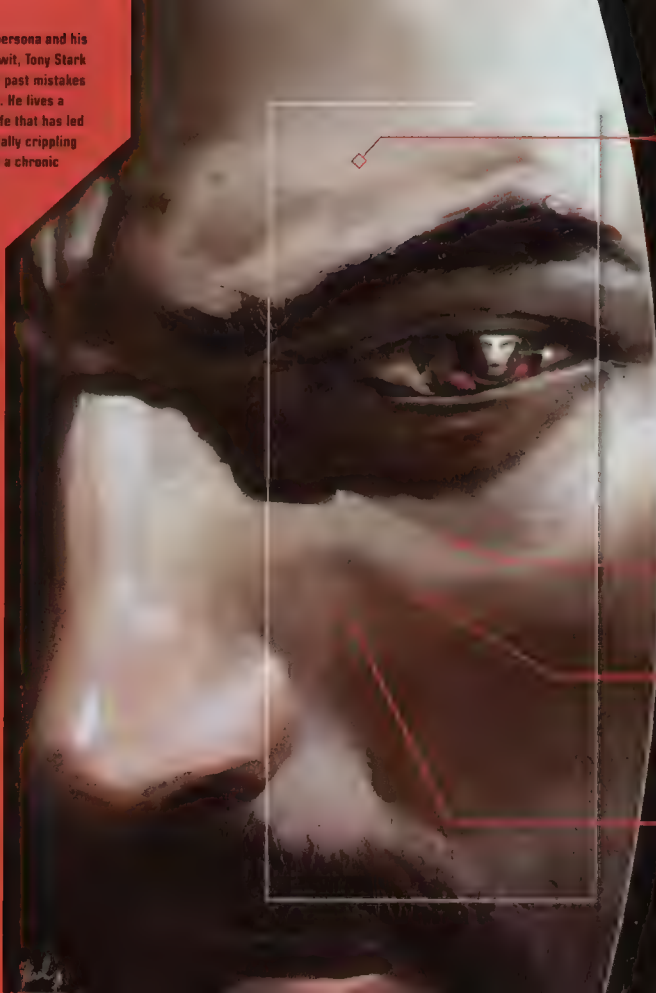


- [illegible]



Behind his playboy persona and his charming, carefree wit, Tony Stark is a man tortured by past mistakes and future concerns. He lives a life of extremes, a life that has led him to battle potentially crippling health problems and a chronic addiction to alcohol.

# A TROUBLED HERO



## CRISIS OF CONSCIENCE

Tony Stark's entire fortune was founded on death. Although he has tried to see it from some other perspective, there's no avoiding the facts. His father was a weapons manufacturer, selling brilliant and efficient killing machines to the US government in all their various war efforts. When Tony took over his father's business, he has become little more than a glorified arms dealer. Tony improved upon his father's ideas and Stark Industries reaped the benefits.

It wasn't until Tony witnessed firsthand the destructive might of his father's creations that he began to have serious misgivings about his life's work. After a near-fatal injury caused by one of his own Stark landmines, Tony began to appreciate the consequences of his creations. It took time, paperwork, and wading through miles of red tape, before Tony was able to close all Stark weapons manufacturing once and for all. He now fights as Iron Man trying to make amends for his part in protecting the people of the present. But the fact that he can never bring back the many thousands of lives destroyed by his company's inventions weighs heavily upon him.



## THE CONSTANT DEMON

Tony Stark's greatest fear is that he'll lose control again. Struggling with alcoholism nearly his entire adult life, Tony has hit rock bottom on more than one occasion. Alcohol is a persistent threat looming in the darkest recesses of his mind—a threat that some of Tony's enemies have ruthlessly exploited. Hardly a day goes by that Tony doesn't do battle with the demons in the bottle.



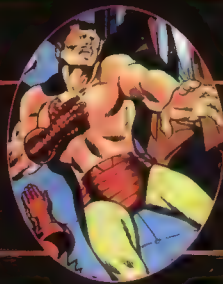
## UNLUCKY IN LOVE

High-science genetic beauties, female teammates with access to personal baggage, shrewdness but fatally flawed Super Villains: Tony hasn't had the best of luck when it comes to romance. Bad choices combined with his own guilt complex and neurotic ways, has resulted in one unworkable relationship after another. To Tony, true love seems an elusive prize indeed. But there are some that feel that what he's looking for has been right under his nose all the while.



## BROKEN BODY

While the armor he's created seems to be nearly invulnerable, the man who wears it has proven to be anything but. From the very beginning of Iron Man's career, Tony has struggled with a near-fatal heart condition, brought on by chemical fumes close to his heart. Originally Tony was forced to wear his life-saving Iron Man chest plate at all times, just to keep his frail heart beating. He has undergone a heart transplant to cure this condition, but over the years has taken victim to other life, such as a shattered spine and a host of fatal parasites.



# FRIENDS & ALLIES

If a man can be judged by his friends alone, Iron Man certainly has nothing to worry about. Earning allies both in the boardroom and the battlefield, Tony Stark always has someone to call on in a crisis.

## Nick Fury



As one of the backers of the peacekeeping force SHIELD, Tony Stark helped appoint Nick Fury as the organization's director. Stark has continued to aid SHIELD in both of his identities, even after Fury tried to stage a hostile

takeover of Stark International back when Tony pledged to end its weapon production. In fact, immediately after Tony foiled Fury's attempt, the two fought side by side against the towering automaton Dreadnought.

## Dum Dum Dugan



Nick Fury's right-hand man, and a fine leader in his own right, Timothy "Dum Dum" Dugan began working for Stark when Tony was named the Director of SHIELD. However, during the events of the Secret Invasion (see pp. 180-181)

by the alien, shapeshifting Skrulls, it was revealed that Tony had not been working with Dugan at all, but a Skrull impersonating the loyal soldier.

## Eddie March



A boxer inspired by Iron Man's crime-busting adventures, Eddie March was groomed by Tony Stark to replace him as Iron Man.

Worried about his failing health, Tony enthusiastically trained Eddie to take over for him, only to discover that March's life was secretly threatened by a blood clot. However, after Tony reclaimed his role as a Super Hero, he and Eddie continued their friendship, and March subsequently joined Stark's charitable Iron Men Foundation.

## Scott Lang



The second hero to call himself Ant-Man (the first was scientist and original Avenger Henry Pym), Scott Lang worked for Stark International for years. Often trusted to help his employer out in a pinch, Lang was willing to go the extra mile for Tony on one occasion even breaking into

prison on his behalf to interrogate an inmate. Lang was tragically killed during the rampage of the unbalanced Avenger Scarlet Witch.

## Pepper Potts



Although perhaps the most loyal friend Tony Stark has ever had, his executive assistant Pepper Potts hasn't always got on well with her eccentric boss. When she

first met Tony, she found him to be a bit sexist. And years later, when she married Happy Hogan, Pepper wanted little to do with Tony Stark, knowing the trouble he always brought into their lives. Regardless, Pepper is always drawn back to Tony, and probably always will be.

## Abe Zimmer



Tony's first met computer technician Abe when Stark Enterprises was looking to purchase the research firm AccuTech. After hearing Zimmer's informative

account of the Ghost Saboteur, the two started a working relationship that budded into a true friendship. Zimmer helped Stark hack into foreign computers during his "Armor Wars." He proved his loyalty to Tony when he died at the hand of the villainous Stockpile to keep Tony's secrets safe.

## Jim Rhodes



When Rhodes joined in the fight of battle, Rhodes and Stark have seen the best and the worst in each other's images. But all managed to maintain their singular bond. Treating him like the twin brother. Tony even gave him a set of armor, a gift that reserved only for his closest few.

## Bethany Cabe



When Tony was in the military, Bethany Cabe kept appearing and disappearing from his life. She was a constant source of security, becoming an ex-commander of the War Machine project. Bethany has remained loyal to her old home.

## Happy Hogan



Many people have claimed they are the only one who is able to get Tony to relax. Happy Hogan actually proved it. He was the one who convinced Tony to accept his emperor's title. But it was Hogan who was the one who convinced Tony to stop the Spymaster from attacking along Iron Man.

## Maria Hill



When Tony was appointed as director of SHIELD, Maria Hill was down to serve Stark's needs. She was a former S.H.I.E.L.D. agent who worked closely with Tony to help him cope with the SHIELD organization. Maria and Tony shared a fling while on the run.

## Guardman



After Tony was chosen by the director of SHIELD, he was assigned to the security of the Stark Tower. Tony's first assignment was to protect the Stark Tower. Tony's first assignment was to protect the Stark Tower. Tony's first assignment was to protect the Stark Tower.

## Edwin Jarvis



Tony's father built a family that was built on the Stark family. Edwin Jarvis had the opportunity to work for Tony, and he became a part of the Avengers. Edwin Jarvis was a member of the Avengers.

## Ho Yinsen



When Tony was in the military, Ho Yinsen was the one who helped him. He was the one who helped him. He was the one who helped him. He was the one who helped him.

## Sal Kennedy



When Tony was in the military, Sal Kennedy was the one who helped him. He was the one who helped him. He was the one who helped him. He was the one who helped him.

## Jack of Hearts



When Tony was in the military, Jack of Hearts was the one who helped him. He was the one who helped him. He was the one who helped him. He was the one who helped him.

## Guardman II



When Tony was in the military, Guardman II was the one who helped him. He was the one who helped him. He was the one who helped him. He was the one who helped him.

## Force



When Tony was in the military, Force was the one who helped him. He was the one who helped him. He was the one who helped him. He was the one who helped him.

## Henry Hellrung



When Tony was in the military, Henry Hellrung was the one who helped him. He was the one who helped him. He was the one who helped him. He was the one who helped him.



# Pepper Potts



**Pepper Potts is the one reason Stark Industries didn't crash and burn ages ago. She's been Tony's right-hand woman for more years than either of them would like to admit. Infatuated with her boss almost from the first, Pepper has been flirting with Tony for as long as Iron Man has been flirting with disaster.**



## In Good Hands

When Pepper first took over as Tony's assistant, she saw her workload increase tenfold. But soon Tony started to realize the importance of his job as head of Stark Industries, and the two became a solid team, even as their romantic tensions grew. Pepper helped Stark on all fronts and overruled Iron Man's life on more than one occasion.

## Pepper in Peril

Robert exactly for Pepper, being Tony's assistant in a major means, she was naturally put in the line of fire. She was not the first to be kidnapped and held captive by the villainous Doctor Doom, who was looking for a way to use her as a bargaining chip. She was not the first to be kidnapped and held captive by the villainous Doctor Doom, who was looking for a way to use her as a bargaining chip.



## Bomb Victim

Despite their frequent flirtations, Pepper and Tony were never quite able to spark up a full-fledged romance. Tony worried about the state of his injured heart, while Pepper worried about Tony's reluctance to settle down with any one woman. It wasn't until Pepper was caught in a deadly blast while attending a gala with Tony that he truly realized how important she was to him. With a shrapnel imbedded in her chest near her heart, Tony was forced to equip Pepper with repulsor technology to keep her alive.



Despite her quick recovery and immediate new lease on life, Pepper was wary of having one of Tony's weapons inside her body.



However, the mag-field in Pepper's chest was created as a battery, not a weapon. The good news left Pepper finally smiling on all.

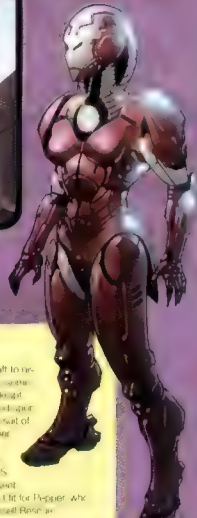
## Goodbye Kiss

After a long period from his previous work, Tony was finally back in the field. He was not the first to be kidnapped and held captive by the villainous Doctor Doom, who was looking for a way to use her as a bargaining chip.



## Rescue

With the help of Tony's assistant, Pepper was able to escape the clutches of the villainous Doctor Doom. She was not the first to be kidnapped and held captive by the villainous Doctor Doom, who was looking for a way to use her as a bargaining chip.





# HAPPY HOGAN

"He needs a chauffeur like a hole in the head! What does he keep me around for, anyway?"

More worried about injuring his opponents than winning a title, boxer Harold "Happy" Hogan never found much success in the ring. Retiring from the fight game and taking a job at Stark Industries as Tony Stark's personal chauffeur, Happy thought he'd put his days of violence behind him. Instead, his life became a powder keg, with every workplace could be his last.



## The Rescue

When Tony Stark was kidnapped, Happy was the first to respond. He didn't know who the kidnappers were, but he knew Tony was in trouble. He kept him safe until the police could arrive, and then he helped them rescue him. Happy Hogan.



## Happy-Go-Lucky

Happy was the first to respond when Tony was kidnapped. He kept him safe until the police could arrive, and then he helped them rescue him. Happy Hogan.

## KEY DATA

**FULL NAME:** Harold Joseph "Happy" Hogan

**ALMA MATER:** University of Texas, Austin

**BIOGRAPHY:** Virginia "Pepper" Potts Hogan (wife), unrequited love, great-niece and charge, unaffiliated foster daughter and son, Clay Hogan (brother)

**BACKGROUND:** Personal assistant and chauffeur, former liaison for local affiliate of the Marla Stark Foundation, CEO of Stark Enterprises, fight manager, mansion security chief, bodyguard, boxer

**APPEARANCES:** Iron Man



## Mr. and Mrs. Hogan

Although Happy and Pepper Potts are not married, they are close friends. Happy attempts to help Pepper when she is kidnapped, but she is very uncooperative. She eventually escapes with her personal bodyguard, but she is still in danger.



## Love Triangle

Happy has a love triangle with Pepper Potts and Tony Stark. He is in love with Pepper, but he is also in love with Tony. He is torn between the two of them.



## Secret Identity

When he was severely injured during the fight with the Thunder Man, Happy revealed to Tony that he had figured out his secret identity as Iron Man some time ago.

In an attempt to feed two worms, Happy required the assistance of the Mathematician. Mary only subjected his friend to this experiment a few times, then lost interest in the device, though it could change energy into mass like the Aludolph. Happy's injuries were healed, but he was transformed for a time into a link in the steel of his former self, called the Truck. He ran a truck and turned a Pepper Post. When transformed back, Happy retained no memory of becoming a monkey.



**"You know something, Hap? You're the only guy I ever met who can make me feel like a moron."**

## Tony Stark



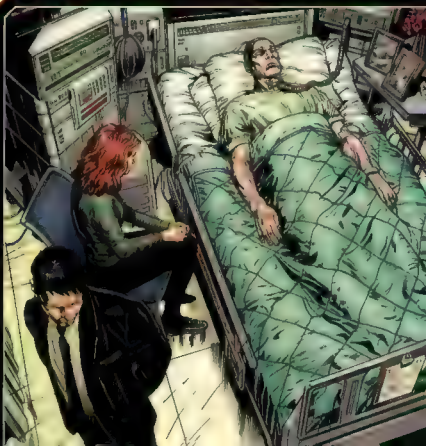
Happy He is was all Happy ever wanted. When he two eloped and decided to quit a job at Stark Industries to pursue their dream, Happy's young career was finally going as well as when their relationship became strained due to the loss of their adopted foster children, their marriage ended in divorce. However fate would bring them back together when Stark's employ at the two eventually reconciled and married.



The couple would still have their share of problems. A rift again grew between them when Pepper had a miscarriage.



Despite his slow demeanor, it was never a good idea to underestimate Happy Hogan. The Spymaster made the mistake of doing just that when he attempted to use Happy as bait to lure Iron Man into a trap. Happy struggled valiantly, knocking the Spymaster and himself off of a cableway to stop the attack. Happy's injuries left him in a coma. With no hope of his recovery, Pepper begged Tony to use his *Extremis* link to pull the plug on her husband's life-support machines and end his suffering.





## KEY DATA

**FULL NAME:** James Rupert "Jim" Rhodes

**ALIAS:** "Rhodey," War Machine, formerly Iron Man

**BACKGROUND:** Adventurer, former Commander of Camp Hammond Initiative Force, ONG drill sergeant, marine aviator, political activist, CEO of Stark Enterprises, pilot, inventor, engineer, scholar

**APPEARANCES:** Sincerely the US State Initiative, ONG, the Corps, "Iron Legion," West Coast Avengers, Secret Avengers, War Machine, US Marines

**POWERS/WEAPONS:** Stark-developed cybernetic armor with advanced firepower

# JAMES RHODES

# "RHODEY"



He's Iron Man's right-hand man and the first person Tony Stark turns to for help. Despite the occasional difference of opinion, Jim "Rhodey" Rhodes has never let Iron Man down.

## APOCALYPSE THEN...

It's surprising James Rhodes and Tony Stark ever became friends at all (1). After all, the first time Rhodes ever laid eyes on Tony Stark he shot at him with a machine gun. Few close friendships begin in a hail of gunfire, but it was somehow appropriate for Tony and Jim.



James Rhodes was born in a poor neighborhood in South Philadelphia. Seeking to make a name for himself and rise above his background, Rhodes enlisted in the US Marines and was assigned to a tour of duty overseas. A superb helicopter pilot, Rhodes was nevertheless shot down, crash-landing his prized bird right in the middle of enemy territory. To make matters worse, as he was repairing his craft, a strange armored man came out of the surrounding jungle and approached him. Jim opened fire on this mysterious threat (2), but his bullets couldn't penetrate his target's metal hide. The armored man was, of course, Tony Stark in his very first Iron Man suit. Tony had just escaped from Wong-Chu's prison camp and was seeking Rhodey's help.

After jumpstarting Jim's helicopter (3), and routing another camp of enemy soldiers (4), Tony and Rhodey flew back to a nearby US military outpost. This shared combat experience helped form a lasting bond (5).



# Always there...



After chomping out of his seat from Man Island, Tony offered Phredy a job as his personal pilot right after their last adventure. Not wishing to pass up such a tremendous opportunity, Phredy accepted, as soon as his tour of duty came to a close. As Stark's pilot, Phredy now traveled the world with his jet-setting boss, and the two formed a close friendship that rivaled any in either of their lives. On several occasions, Phredy went above and beyond the call of duty and saved Tony's life—a debt Tony repaid as Man Island at every available opportunity.

When Tony's alcoholism made it impossible for him to handle his duties as a Super Hero, Rhedey nervously stepped up to the proverbial plate and took his piloting skills to the next level as the Iron Man for a while. Even though the armor caused him pain and mental torment, Rhedey wore it proudly. He also donned the Iron Man armor on a few subsequent occasions to save his friends.

When Tony Stark seemingly lay on his deathbed, and asked Rhodey to resume Iron Man duties full time and also take over as Stark Industries' CEO, Jim didn't back down from the challenge. Only when Rhodes discovered

that Tony had faked his death without telling him, did the two have a falling out, one that time and a bit of good old-fashioned arm-and-cannon combat finally mended.

When Massey first learned the true film credit in an emergency, it was never told to his particular businessmen, causing him confusion and even shifts in his personality.

"I'm handlin' the here chores these days... you might want to write that down somewhere—as you remember it."

## RHODEY IN LOVE

[illegible][illegible]

## Marcu Pearson

# War Machine

At the end of the first half of the 1990s, the average life expectancy at birth in the Czech Republic was 74.6 years for men and 78.6 years for women. The average life expectancy at birth in the Slovak Republic was 73.6 years for men and 77.6 years for women. The average life expectancy at birth in the Czech Republic was 74.6 years for men and 78.6 years for women. The average life expectancy at birth in the Slovak Republic was 73.6 years for men and 77.6 years for women.

There is a direct causal link between the use of a particular type of technology and the resulting environmental impact. This is the case, for example, of the use of a particular type of technology in the production of a particular product. The use of a particular type of technology in the production of a particular product can result in a particular type of environmental impact. For example, the use of a particular type of technology in the production of a particular product can result in a particular type of environmental impact.

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Rhodey had no desire to reclaim his role as Iron Man, but his loyalty to his friend compelled him.



## INTO THE FUTURE



**"HOLD BACK AND WAIT FOR THE BLEED OUT..."**

**"SORRY SOLDIER... BUT  
RHODEY DON'T BLEED!"**

any further work, the death of the wife was a disaster. "I was a woman who had to be needed," she said. "I had to be needed by my husband, my children, my friends, my neighbors. I was a woman who had to be needed by everyone."



# GIRLS, GIRLS, GIRLS!

Tony Stark's social activities have given one meaning to the term "playboy." A favorite hobby of his, equal to tinkering in his workshop, Tony has spent countless hours romancing society's most beautiful women.



**Marion**

Marion is a beautiful woman who has been a part of Tony's life for many years. She is a talented singer and dancer, and has been a close friend of Tony's since they were young. She is now a famous singer and has many fans.

**Meredith McCall**

Meredith is a beautiful woman who has been a part of Tony's life for many years. She is a talented singer and dancer, and has been a close friend of Tony's since they were young. She is now a famous singer and has many fans.



**Michelle Romanova**

Michelle is a beautiful woman who has been a part of Tony's life for many years. She is a talented singer and dancer, and has been a close friend of Tony's since they were young. She is now a famous singer and has many fans.



**Joanna Riviera**

Joanna is a beautiful woman who has been a part of Tony's life for many years. She is a talented singer and dancer, and has been a close friend of Tony's since they were young. She is now a famous singer and has many fans.



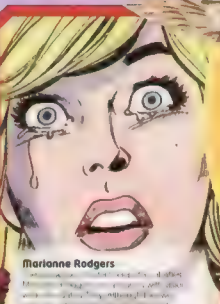
**Janice Cord**

Janice is a beautiful woman who has been a part of Tony's life for many years. She is a talented singer and dancer, and has been a close friend of Tony's since they were young. She is now a famous singer and has many fans.



**Sunset Bain**

Sunset is a beautiful woman who has been a part of Tony's life for many years. She is a talented singer and dancer, and has been a close friend of Tony's since they were young. She is now a famous singer and has many fans.



**Marianne Rodgers**

Marianne is a beautiful woman who has been a part of Tony's life for many years. She is a talented singer and dancer, and has been a close friend of Tony's since they were young. She is now a famous singer and has many fans.



**Janet Van Dyne**

Janet is a beautiful woman who has been a part of Tony's life for many years. She is a talented singer and dancer, and has been a close friend of Tony's since they were young. She is now a famous singer and has many fans.

**Indira Moon**

Indira is a beautiful woman who has been a part of Tony's life for many years. She is a talented singer and dancer, and has been a close friend of Tony's since they were young. She is now a famous singer and has many fans.



**Roxanne Gilbert**

Roxanne is a beautiful woman who has been a part of Tony's life for many years. She is a talented singer and dancer, and has been a close friend of Tony's since they were young. She is now a famous singer and has many fans.



**Heather Glenn**

Heather is a beautiful woman who has been a part of Tony's life for many years. She is a talented singer and dancer, and has been a close friend of Tony's since they were young. She is now a famous singer and has many fans.



**Bela Goshenko**

Bela is a beautiful woman who has been a part of Tony's life for many years. She is a talented singer and dancer, and has been a close friend of Tony's since they were young. She is now a famous singer and has many fans.



**Roe LaCoste**

Roe is a beautiful woman who has been a part of Tony's life for many years. She is a talented singer and dancer, and has been a close friend of Tony's since they were young. She is now a famous singer and has many fans.

**Kathleen Dore**

Kathleen is a beautiful woman who has been a part of Tony's life for many years. She is a talented singer and dancer, and has been a close friend of Tony's since they were young. She is now a famous singer and has many fans.



**Countess Stephanie De La Spirosa**

Countess Stephanie is a beautiful woman who has been a part of Tony's life for many years. She is a talented singer and dancer, and has been a close friend of Tony's since they were young. She is now a famous singer and has many fans.



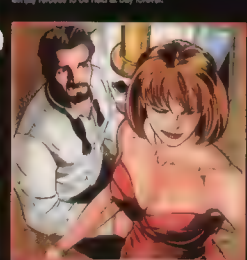
**Callista Hancock**

Callista is a beautiful woman who has been a part of Tony's life for many years. She is a talented singer and dancer, and has been a close friend of Tony's since they were young. She is now a famous singer and has many fans.



**Pepper Potts**

Pepper is a beautiful woman who has been a part of Tony's life for many years. She is a talented singer and dancer, and has been a close friend of Tony's since they were young. She is now a famous singer and has many fans.



And always...





SECU

Electra, the daughter of the assassin Tumbler, is a highly trained and deadly fighter. She is the daughter of the assassin Tumbler, who was killed by the FBI. Elektra is a highly trained and deadly fighter, and she is the daughter of the assassin Tumbler, who was killed by the FBI.

**"TELL ME TONY... WHO'S  
GOING TO PROTECT  
YOU TONIGHT?  
MRS. ARBOGAST?"**

**Iron Man was her past. War Machine would be her future.**

Years after Tony's return from the grave, Bethany once again found employment at Stark Industries. When Jim Rhodes was critically wounded during an explosion at a military complex, Bethany was placed in charge of his rehabilitation and unfortunate transformation into a cyborg. Working as Rhodes's researcher from her Colorado base, Bethany became instrumental in War Machine's missions. She even went so far as to don a suit of armor to destroy a Poison facility as War Machine 2.0.

Bathory helped northeast War  
Machine's attack on mercenaries  
belonging to private defense contractor  
[Editor: international]

# MIND SWAP



Shortly before Tony Stark first developed his eliver centurion armor, Bethany was taken captive by his chief rival, Obadiah Stane. There she underwent an experimental procedure created by Dr. Theron Altens in which her personality was switched into the body of a clone of the villain Madame Masque. This new "Bethany" attempted to assassinate Tony, and the real Bethany was forced to come to his rescue in the form of Madame Masque. Fortunately, Tony managed to see through the deception and helped restore Bethany to her own body.





# MAIN ENEMIES

**A**s Iron Man, Tony Stark has faced down more criminals than he cares to remember. From violent fanatics clad in high-tech battlesuits, to moneyed masterminds who rarely leave the comfort of their plush offices, Iron Man has battled them all, and overcome every obstacle they have put in his way. But a select few of Iron Man's adversaries have proved relentless thorns in his armored side, and worthy opponents for the heroic Golden Avenger.



## The Mandarin

[illegible]

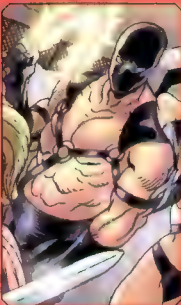
## Obadiah Stano

"I've been thinking about you a lot lately," she said. "I hope you're doing well. I've been thinking about you a lot lately."



**Justin Hammer**

[illegible]

[illegible]

Three men have participated in the Soyuzmaster. The first, whose identity was never disclosed, was a master of industrial espionage. Targeting Stark Industries on a daily basis, he was often work for Justin Hammer, he was recruited by the Situated Long in cooperation with Iron Man. This second Soyuzmaster was Nathan Fillion, a pupil of the criminal Taskmaster. He was killed on the streets of the lowest Soyuzmaster, supposed to have been a Soviet. Although

[illegible]

The product of, for example, a question in a strategy book in the 1980s, is the *Crusader Dynasty*. In Russian answer to the *Man*. Frequently concerned over the years, the *Crusader Dynasty* alone has been some of the most widely sold editions. The *Crusader* was recently reviewed by Andrei Yarnov, who was forced in 1989 to leave his position in the Soviet government after having convinced the L.S. that the *Crusader* was a dangerous subversive, as the *Crusader Dynasty* is a *Crusader*. Today, the answer is usually printed by Gennadiy Babitsky, whose rivalry with Starik has developed into true friendship.

# OTHER FOES



## Firepower

The end result of a combination of stolen Stark technology and the devious mind of businessman Edwin Cord, Firepower was a destructive juggernaut without equal. Operated by mercenary Jack Taggart, Firepower seemed unbeatable until Iron Man redesigned his own armor specifically to take down the two-ton walking tank.

## The Melter

When industrialist Bruno Horgan was discovered to be using inferior materials in his construction of weaponry for the US government, his contracts were awarded to Tony Stark. Swearing revenge, Bruno became the Melter, utilizing a ray capable of reducing Iron Man's armor to dripping slag.



## The Controller

Crippled in a lab accident, scientist Basil Sandhurst created an exoskeleton for himself and turned to a life of crime as the mind-manipulating Controller. Using his "slave discs" to control his unwitting pawns, the Controller has set up many illegitimate businesses to drain them of their energies.



## Kang the Conqueror

Nathaniel Richards, the time-traveling despot Kang, has wrought havoc in the life of Tony Stark. In fact, Kang's alternate future self, Immortus, was the one villain to truly defeat Iron Man, turning him into a murderer. Ironically, the teenaged Kang rebelled against his future destiny and decided to become the heroic Young Avenger Iron Lad.

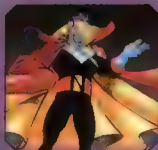
## Unicorn

Using a power horn developed by Anton Vanko (the original Crimson Dynamo), Miles Masaryk became the saboteur Unicorn. He crossed Iron Man's path when on a mission to attack a Stark Industries plant that was manufacturing weapons for the US government. The unstable Unicorn is much more dangerous than his moniker might suggest.



## Firebrand

Picking up his criminal career where the previous Firebrand, political zealot Gary Gilbert, left off, Rick Dennison, was even more hot-headed than his fiery predecessor. In his mutated form, Firebrand attacked an island business retreat, but was eventually defeated by the quick thinking of Iron Man.



## Count Nefaria

The birth father of Whitney Frost, and the reason for her descent into a life of crime as Madame Masque, crime boss Lucho Nefaria has battled the Avengers and Iron Man more times than either care to remember. Believed dead for many years, Nefaria returned to wage a calculated assault on Iron Man's life.



## M.O.D.O.K.

The crowning achievement of the terrorist organization AIM, MODOK is the mutated form of George Tarleton. An acronym for Mobile Organism Designed Only for Killing, MODOK is bent on mass destruction, but so far his plans have been foiled by Iron Man, Captain America, and the Avengers.





### Wong-Chu

The heartless commander of the prison camp that unwittingly birthed Iron Man, Wong-Chu survived

his first encounter with Stark only to plague him as a ruthless drug lord years later. Disfigured from his first encounter with Tony, Wong-Chu was seemingly perished, perhaps for good



### Living Laser

Scientist Arthur Perls used his miniaturized laser weapons to embark on a life of crime. An accident involving Iron Man turned him into a much deadlier being composed of pure photons



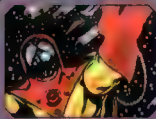
### A.I.M.

Iron Man has been thwarting the terrorist organization Advanced Idea Mechanics (AIM) for years. He recently put an end to a splinter faction called Advanced Genocide Mechanics



### Ezekiel Stane

The son of one of Stark's greatest rivals, Obidiah Stane, Ezekiel followed in his father's footsteps and used pirated Stark technology to wage war against Tony



### Surturion

Iron Man and Arthur Darbyton, the swaggy-sounding Surturion, were enemies, until Surturion realized his Raxxon employees were corrupt. He eagerly gave his life for Iron Man's cause.



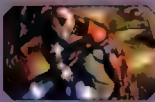
### Temujin

Son of the Mandarin, Temujin inherited his father's enemies when Mandarin was thought dead. Temujin clashed with Iron Man, relying on martial arts as much as on his father's rings.



### Mordecai Mides

The gold-obsessed crime boss has hired the likes of Madame Masque and Morgan Stark to do his bidding. Mides has set his greedy sights on Stark Industries many times



### Iron Patriot

Former Green Goblin Norman Osborn commandeered one of Tony's Iron Man suits, repainting it and publicly declaring himself a hero, despite his evil intentions.



### Scarecrow

A contortionist by trade, Ebenezer Laughton left the stage behind when a chance encounter with Iron Man inspired him to become the flexible thief known as the Scarecrow.



### Doctor Doom

Iron Man's equal and opposite number, Victor Von Doom has used his brilliant scientific mind and advanced battlelaurel not for the good of mankind, but to further his own selfish agenda.



### Madame Masque

Her scarred features reflect her disturbed mind. Whittney Frost has been Iron Man's lover, ally, and enemy. Her obsession with Tony Stark has grown to a near-fatal attraction.



### Ghost

Tony Stark first encountered the enigmatic ex-stair the Ghost when Stark Enterprises was purchasing the electronics company Accustech. A frequent opponent of Iron Man's, the Ghost joined Norman Osborn's Thunderbolts team, after using his intangibility to help Osborn steal an Iron Man suit



### Ultimo

A giant robot from outer space, Ultimo was unseated by the Mandarin. Able to adapt to avoid defeat, Ultimo later merged with Tony's cousin Morgan Stark while battling War Machine



### Raiders

A trio of high-tech thieves using stolen Stark technology and financed by Edwin Cord, the Raiders have recently upgraded and now work as enforcers for the Chinese government



### L.M.D.

When an explosion brought a robotic duplicate of Tony Stark (known as a Life Model Decoy or LMD) to life, the android set out to replace the man he was created to serve. The LMD donned Iron Man's armor and battled his creator until he was destroyed in a vat of molten metal.



### Vibro

Seismologist Alton Vibromax gained power over earthquakes and became the unstable criminal Vibro. He fought and lost to both Tony Stark and Jim Rhodes during their Iron Man terms.

# AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

"And there came a day, a day with no other, when Earth's mightiest heroes and heroines found themselves united against a common threat. On that day, the Avengers were born—to fight the foes no single Super Hero could withstand! Through the years, their roster has prospered, changing many times, but their glory has never been denied! Read the call, then—for now, the Avengers Assemble!"

THOR

WASP

IRON MAN

ANT-MAN

HULK

## THE BEGINNING

Thor's brother Loki was up to his old tricks again. Despite being imprisoned on a barren island in the mystical dimension of Asgard for his brother Thor, the Norse god of mischief, Loki still had access to his magical abilities. After manipulating the Hulk into attempting to wreck a passenger train, Loki diverted a radio call requesting help to Thor's civilian identity of Dr. Donald Blake. However, Loki's play worked a little too well. He successfully lured Thor into a battle with the Hulk, but he also accidentally summoned Iron Man, as well as Ant-Man and the Wasp. Discovering Loki's ruse, the newly formed team of heroes defeated the god of mischief. As they celebrated their triumph, they realized that working together certainly had its advantages. And so the Avengers, Earth's mightiest hero team, was born.

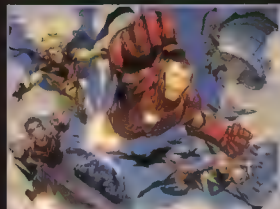
## FURTHER ADVENTURES

It wasn't long before the Avengers set out ship in Tony Stark's childhood mansion and began to hold regular meetings. Directed by Stark's wealthy father's funds, the fledgling team soon faced a menacing alien dubbed the Space Phantom. Unfortunately, the battle bred more suspicion against the team's leader, the incredible Hulk. Tired of the evident mistrust of heroes that were supposed to be his teammates, the Hulk cut the Avengers' ranks. In the Avengers' very next adventure, the Hulk joined forces with Namor the Sub-Mariner and ruler of the underwater Kingdom of Atlantis to battle the team. Fighting these two powerhousees to a standstill, the Avengers were unable to prevent Namor's escape. While searching for the disgruntled sea king, they chanced upon a body frozen in ice—and realized they had found the comelike form of the long-lost World War II pilot, Captain America.

Revising the fallen war hero, the Avengers soon escaped Cap to their rescue. The inspiration of an entire generation, Captain America naturally gravitated towards a leadership position, and cemented the team's reputation as the Earth's Mightiest Heroes. Right from the start, the Avengers' roster was destined to be constantly in flux. Heroes would join and depart, depending on their police or military circumstances or their own over-competitive personalities. Iron Man soon decided that he could no longer carry on his duties as a permanent member. However, he still contributed to the team's funding and hoarding. He also continued to supply them with innovative methods of transport, such as their famed, high-powered Quinjet airplanes, and recommended Clint Barton, the archer who had once opposed the Golden Age Avengers as the masked vigilante Hawkeye, for Avengers membership.

Over the years, Iron Man has returned to the Avengers' fold many times. He's been a consistent influence on the team's decision, helping to found several different incarnations of the team, including the West Coast Avengers, the New Avengers and the Mighty Avengers. And even though Tony sometimes finds himself at odds with the group, Iron Man occasionally has to sojourn with the teammates that he created his own super-powered splinter group called Masters of Evil. Iron Man is always drawn back to the team he helped create, and he's always ready to help them when they're in as much of a bind as they are.

After the earth-shattering Super Hero Civil War, Tony Stark became head of the government-sponsored agency SHIELD, and was thus in a position to shape the Avengers team to his liking.



# TEAM UPS

These team-ups have played a big part in Iron Man's career, giving him a wide array of fellow heroes to call on when the need arises.

## Ms. Marvel

Carol Danvers is the first woman to take control of the Iron Man suit. She has no known history with Iron Man, but Ms. Marvel (Carol Danvers) is a hero who's been around since the 1960s. She was one of the first female superheroes, and she's been a part of the Avengers since the 1970s. She's also been a part of the X-Men, the New Warriors, and the New Avengers. She's a powerful hero who can fly, shoot energy blasts, and has a strong sense of justice.

Iron Man and Ms. Marvel have teamed up many times over the years. In the 1970s, they fought the villainous Doctor Doom. In the 1980s, they fought the villainous Doctor Doom. In the 1990s, they fought the villainous Doctor Doom. In the 2000s, they fought the villainous Doctor Doom. In the 2010s, they fought the villainous Doctor Doom. In the 2020s, they fought the villainous Doctor Doom.



## Reed Richards and the Fantastic Four

Reed Richards is the leader of the Fantastic Four. He is a powerful hero who can stretch his body. He has been a part of the Avengers since the 1960s. He is a powerful hero who can stretch his body. He has been a part of the Avengers since the 1960s. He is a powerful hero who can stretch his body. He has been a part of the Avengers since the 1960s.

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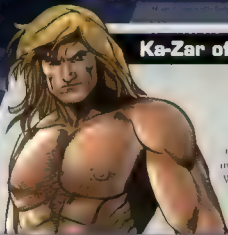
## Spider-Man

Spider-Man is a powerful hero who can stretch his body. He has been a part of the Avengers since the 1960s. He is a powerful hero who can stretch his body. He has been a part of the Avengers since the 1960s. He is a powerful hero who can stretch his body. He has been a part of the Avengers since the 1960s.

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## Ke-Zar of the Savage Land

Over the years, Iron Man has been in unlikely places. Perhaps the most improbable was the Savage Land, the underground world dwelling Ka-Zar. Iron Man was captured when the hero returned to his lost world named the Savage Land, a remote location in Antarctica and possessed by the Avengers West Coast compound. Capturing Iron Man, the group was attempting to recruit the fledgling Super Hero. Ka-Zar was taken by

surprise when the Avengers' old enemy Ultron attempted to steal Iron Man's armor. Utilizing his compound's high-tech arsenal, the Ultron Ka-Zar captured the villain with a little help from Iron Man's ingenuity. In more recent times, Ka-Zar and his wife, Shantia, helped Iron Man fight the Skrull invasion when the Skrulls attempted to set up a base in the Savage Land.

## The Champions

A short-lived team of unlikely allies, the six Avengers' proved Champions to meet with many perils during their brief existence. Comprising ex-super-spies Black Widow, spirit of vengeance Ghost Rider, former teenage X-Men members Iceman and Angel, and the demigod Hercules, the Champions were a force to be reckoned with in the momentary.

On one particular adventure, the team crossed paths with Iron Man, whose Golden Avengers

was busy battling his enemy MODOK on the west coast of America. After contacting his two former Avengers colleagues Black Widow and Hercules from Iron Man and the Champions set out to track down MODOK. Iron Man finally discovered MODOK's hiding place, and with the Champions by his side, expelled excess energy directly at the robot villain, seemingly finishing him, once and for all.



## The Thunderbolts

Following the infamous Masters of Evil, the Thunderbolts appeared on the scene after the Avengers' disappearance following their battle with the mysterious creature called Onslaught. Winning the public support before revealing their former Super Villain identities, members included Blizzard, Songbird, lost joystick Criminal Mischance, Beetle, Atlas, Speed Demon, and Radioactive Man. The Thunderbolts remained controversial figures in the minds of the Avengers, upon their return from exile in a pocket dimension.

On one occasion, Iron Man accompanied the Champions, as the Cobra Man in order to infiltrate the Thunderbolts' ranks. Iron Man's deception was discovered by the Thunderbolts' Moonstone, when she lost control of the vast energy she possessed. With the Avengers' help, Iron Man and the Thunderbolts took down the crazed villainess. During the Civil War, Iron Man utilized the Thunderbolts to help track down unregistered heroes.



## Namor the Sub-Mariner

During the underwater kingdom of Atlantis has done nothing for Namor the Sub-Mariner's modesty. With a hot-temperament, the prince's strength to back it up. Namor is often flippant from how to villain in the eyes of the public, and their Super Hero protectors. Nevertheless, Namor possesses his own unique and unswerving moral code, which forced him to parting with Iron Man from time to time, and both have been members of the Avengers.

but were only strictly antagonists. On one occasion, Namor put himself at odds with the Golden Avenger after the sea king's reckless actions accidentally knocked a passenger plane out of the sky. Realizing that Namor's attitude was caused by the activities of a corrupt Roskon Company, Iron Man joined forces with the Atlantean and helped him destroy the company's criminal operations.



# OTHER IRON MEN

There have been times when Tony Stark has reluctantly stepped down and allowed other men and women to take up the Iron Man mantle.



## HAPPY HOGAN

When the public began to suspect Tony's connection to Iron Man, his chauffeur Happy Hogan decided to save his boss's reputation by taking a turn in the Iron Man armor. By appearing in public, Happy put to rest any lingering suspicions that Tony Stark and Iron Man were one and the same.



## EDDIE MARCH

Drawing inspiration from Iron Man's heroic exploits, prize-fighter Eddie March teamed the ideal choice to take over as Iron Man when Tony Stark decided to retire due to health complications. Unfortunately, March had a secret blood clot, so Tony was soon forced to rescue his role as the Golden Assman.



## BETHANY CABE

A trusted ally, though she never wore an Iron Man suit herself, Bethany Cabe first stepped into the role of Iron Man when Jim Rhodes recruited a team to pilot Tony's spare suits and battle the alien robot Ultron. Bethany took to the equipment like a natural and played a crucial role in the ensuing battle.



## MICHAEL O'BRIEN

Originally meeting Iron Man on the battlefield as the second Gunblaster, Michael O'Brien later became a trusted friend of Tony Stark, and even wore the Iron Man armor to aid Tony in battle. Motivation for the real Iron Man, O'Brien was recruited by the Mandarin, forcing Iron Man to rescue him.



## CARL WALKER

Formerly known as Clay Walker, Carl Walker embarked on a criminal career as Force, until he became plagued by nightmares involving his misdeeds. With the help of his old enemy Iron Man, Walker left his criminal past behind him and even stood in as Iron Man when Tony needed his help against the notorious threat.



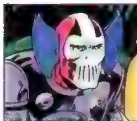
## JIM RHODES

The only other person to take up the Iron Man role on a long-term basis, Jim Rhodes led the attack of Iron Man against Ultron.

## "Spare Parts Man"

Willen is described in Marston's very stark, cold, barren floor  
the shadows in the house, a face that glimmers in the dark, revealing  
a face that is not. After some bloody, violent, and rather brutal  
the old man, who is not a man, is killed. The story of the  
very first American novel.

As a new resident here, I enjoyed seeing the people that Tony Stark was, without a car. Much of the time the car was not a factor, it was about the fact that he had a car and from 4pm to 6pm he was found on the West End Avenue, not a word added.

[illegible]

# WOLVERINE

When hunting down the super criminal known as Nitro, the villain responsible for the destruction of the town of Stamford, Connecticut, Wolverine called upon his New Avengers teammate Iron Man for help. Borrowing a suit of Tony's hydro armor, Wolverine was able to travel to the ocean floor to the smoldering city of Atlantis. In order to see to it that Nitro was brought to justice,

# IRON MEN ARMY



With fully exposed, the city government, as Mayor Landrum says, does not take any of the "city's money that the government has put into it and give over to the city," however, "which is the problem," according to him. Secondly, many have charged that the funding of the MTA "will come from a tax that will be a regressive tax, one that will hurt the poor and middle class," he says. He also stated the plan "where the state has been appropriated a large sum of money. We don't have any more in the state treasury, they've just taken two and a half per-





# TIMELINE

• The only child of wealthy arms manufacturer Howard Stark and his wife Maria, Tony is raised in a mansion neighboring New York City's Central Park. His father's strict discipline and alcohol abuse turns Tony into a quiet, withdrawn child.

• To escape his family's troubles, Tony becomes fascinated with his inventor set and builds a toy Iron Man.

• At age seven, Tony is sent away to boarding school—an attempt by his father to "toughen" him up.

• Finding it difficult to relate to other children, Tony escapes into the realm of science fiction and Thomas Malory's tales of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table.

• A child prodigy, Tony enrolls at MIT at age 15, double majoring in physics and engineering and studying under many esteemed professors, including Ted Stought.

• Tony begins dating Meredith McGill, his first serious relationship.

• Tony begins work for his father at Stark Industries. He doesn't like the job very seriously, preferring the life of a millionaire playboy.

• While driving to Long Island from a function in the city, Howard and Maria Stark lose control of their luxury sedan owing to a brake failure secretly engineered by a group of corrupt industry competitors who would go on to form Roxxon Oil. Howard and Maria are both killed in the wreck, leaving the apparently irresponsible Tony in charge of their entire estate.

• As his first act as head of Stark Industries, Tony buys the manufacturer of his parents' car and files the design flaw that caused their supposed accident.

• Tony promotes secretary Pepper Potts to be his executive assistant after the alert young woman corrects an oversight when typing up papers for a government contract, saving the company over a half million dollars.

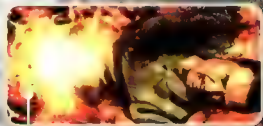
• As Tony founders as head of Stark Industries, Pepper takes on more and more of his responsibilities.

• Tony and his girlfriend, Joanna Hivens, become engaged.

• On a trip to Afghanistan as a consultant to the US military, Tony is caught in the explosion of one of his own company's land mines when terrorist forces attack his convoy. With shrapnel lodged in his chest next to his heart, Tony is taken captive by the rebels and told to build a weapon that they can use against the Americans. With the help of fellow inventor and prisoner Ho Yinsen, Tony instead builds a primitive Iron Man suit that keeps him alive and allows him to escape the insurgents' camp.

• Still clad as Iron Man, Tony meets pilot Jim Rhodes and the two help each other escape enemy territory, finally returning to a US base.

• Back in the US, Tony wears his life-saving Iron Man chest plate to survive, but makes it thinner and more compact. He also develops it way to store the suit of armor in his briefcase. He decides to continue as Iron Man to combat crime, but keeps his dual identity a secret, announcing that Iron Man is his bodyguard and a Stark Industries employee.



• Tony reveals his double life to his fiancée Joanna Hivens. The two part when Joanna realizes that Tony's calling as a Super Hero will interfere with a normal family home life.

• After wrestling escaped lions at a circus as Iron Man, Tony pawns his armor gold, realizing that his gray armor frightens the public.

• When testing his "Stark Special" reactor, Tony crashes and is pulled from the wreckage by former boxer Happy Hogan. Tony hires Happy as his chauffeur, and the two become fast friends.

• The villain Jack Frost attacks Stark Industries, rebelling against his own employer.

• Iron Man joins Anti-Man, the Wasp, Thor, and the Hulk to form the Avengers to thwart the trickery of Thor's evil brother, Loki. The team's headquarters is the Manhattan mansion that was Tony's childhood home.

• Iron Man battles Professor Vanko, the Crimean Dynamo, convincing the villain to defect to the US and work for Stark Industries.

• Bruno Hogen attacks Stark Industries as the Mole after the military contracts weapons from Stark Industries instead of his own company.

• Tony constructs a new red and gold Iron Man suit out of lighter material to help him defeat the villainous Mr. Dot.

• Iron Man heads to China at the behest of the US government and first battles the Mandarin.

• After a failed robbery, the conformationist known as the Escrower flees to Cuba to escape Iron Man.

• The Avengers unleash Captain America and add him to their ranks.

• Tony has a fling with the Soviet spy known as the Black Widow before learning of her treachery and killing her schemes.

• Iron Man transforms his "horned" helmet into a rounded shape.

• Iron Man fights the Unicorn when the villain decides to pit his strength against the hero.

• Black Widow returns to plague Iron Man, this time with marksmen Hawkeye in tow as her love-struck partner.

• After beating the villain known as the Saboteur who was out to ruin Stark Industries' government contracts, Tony finally devotes himself fully to his company, to the relief of the overworked Pepper Potts.

• Iron Man quits the Avengers, yet remains their main financial supporter. He also backs reformist villain Hawkeye for team membership.

• Iron Man beats the communist Titanium Man in a televised fight for national pride. During the epic battle, Happy Hogan reveals that he has deduced Iron Man's double identity.

• Tony Stark helps found the government super spy agency SHIELD and is instrumental in recruiting Nick Fury as its director.

• The Mandarin discovers the alien android Ultron and unleashes the 25-foot-tall behemoth on Iron Man.

• Pepper Potts and Happy Hogan get married.

• Whichever stage it cut with Iron Man for the first time, and fights the hero to a standstill.

• Tony designs a "stealth armor" with vibranium.

• Iron Man tests a batch of new threats, including Madrox/Messiah, the Mandarin, and the Mandarin.

• When Iron Man suffers a heart attack in battle, Dr. Bruce Banner transplants a synthetic heart into Tony's chest, leaving his hero life dependent on his Iron Man chest plate.

• Slower Eddie March slips in as Iron Man when Tony retires. When Eddie suffers a severe injury at the hands of a new Crimson Dynamo, Tony returns as Iron Man, fighting the Crimson Dynamo in a battle that costs James Cord her life.

• The political artist Peter Dinklage becomes an unlikely sidekick.

• The original Ironmaster and his disciples, the Iron Masters, kidnap Tony Stark's hostages.

• Tony creates the Guardian armor for engineer Kevin O'Brien, but the armor causes O'Brien to go insane, and attack Tony's new girlfriend Marlene Rodgers. Iron Man accidentally kills O'Brien in a later skirmish.

• Iron Man fights alongside the Avengers in the Kree/Skrull War. He later forms the Illuminati alongside Mr. Fantastic, Namor, Professor X, Dr. Strange, and Black Bolt in order to prevent such conflicts recurring in future.

• Tony changes the name of his company to Stark International to better reflect his role in the global marketplace. He abandons his work in munitions in favor of the more beneficial innovations of electronics development.

• Ghost Rider becomes a super hero.

• Michael O'Brien, the brother of the original Guardian, investigates his brother Kevin's death and eventually takes up his mantle after briefly posing as Iron Man.

• Jim Rhodes, Anthony "Ghost" Stark's assistant, attempts to convince Tony to work at Stark International.

• Ghost Rider wages war on Devil's Disciples.

• With Iron Man framed for murder, Tony undergoes training by Ghost Rider in martial arts and other fighting techniques.

• Although Tony manages to escape Hammer's clutches, the stress of the ongoing skirmish and the threat of a hostile company takeover drive Tony to drink.

• With the help of his budding romance with Betty Ross, Tony manages to kick his drinking habit and reclaim his life.

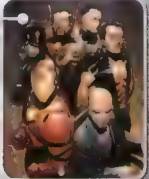
• Iron Man files out his first armor violation, his mask and armor, while escaping an orbiting Russian satellite.

• The original Iron Man armor is destroyed by the Russian satellite, leaving Tony to rebuild.

• Dr. Doom and Iron Man travel back home from a mission to stop the Kree/Skrull War.

• Iron Man uses his new stealth armor to invade a top-secret German research complex, resulting in an ongoing feud with the infamous Living Laser.

• Ghost Rider begins a hostile takeover of Stark International, setting his sights on destroying Iron Man while simultaneously attempting to return Tony Stark to the battle.



• Tony escapes into a hidden chamber, becoming independent in coping the Iron Man suit.

• Plot line Rhodes takes over Tony Stark's duties as Iron Man while Tony repairs the New York City streets, reduced to rubble more than a year after 9/11.

• Ghost Rider becomes a super hero.

• Iron Man Jim Rhodes is transported to Battleworld with many other heroes to fight at the whim of the mysterious Beyonder. There his armor is augmented by fellow hero Mr. Fantastic.

• After last landing a homeless person, Tony returns to work life. Tony becomes a hero again.

• Tony and a few friends return to Stark's company as a new company called Circular Mechanics.

• Tony battles the techno-powered villain.

• As Iron Man, Jim Rhodes joins the West Coast Avengers.

• When his new company is destroyed by Blaine, Tony Stark does a new armor and reclaims his life as Iron Man. Iron Man attacks Blaine, who has designed his own Iron Monger battlesuit, and defeats him. Blaine takes his own life.

• Tony sets up a new company called Stark Industries.

• Iron Man does his underwear armor for the first time when awaiting for chemical weapons at the bottom of the ocean.

• The Ghost attacks a new subsidiary of Stark Industries, taking him into conflict with Iron Man for the first time.

• Tony has reformed villain Feroce and discovers his new employee's armor contains stolen Stark components. This prompts Iron Man to embark on a renegade mission, dubbed the Armor Wars, to destroy all of his technology that has been appropriated by other hands over the years.

• Tony's intense actions in the Armor Wars lead to Iron Man being listed out of the Avengers and Tony creating a new Iron Man suit.

• The emotionally disturbed Kathy Dora becomes obsessed with Tony Stark and shoots and paralyzes him. Tony employs an experimental microchip to regain the ability to walk.

• Iron Man faces manipulation and control from outside forces along with the revenge of a more powerful Living Laser in the second Armor Wars.

• Tony travels to China in an attempt to find a cure for his worsening spinal condition and instead encounters the Mandarin and the Iron Legion in the Dragon Seed saga.

• Iron Man joins with the Avengers to fight in Operation: Galactic Storm during an interstellar war between the Kree and the Skrulls.

• Undergoing experimental treatment to cure his ailing condition, Tony loses his own death, pronouncing Jim Rhodes to CEO of Stark Enterprises and once again into the position of Iron Man.

• Tony is successfully revived, prompting Rhodes, sick of being kept in the dark, to angrily cut his employ. Rhodes accepts the War Machine identity and embarks on his own crime fighting career.



• His machine joins the West Coast Avengers.

• In a battle with Ultron, Iron Man past and present join forces after Tony's remote-controlled MCU Iron Man fails to stop the giant android. The group defeats the vision only after Tony arrives clutching a new advanced Iron Man armor.

• Iron Man employs his Hulk-Buster armor during a fight with an intelligent Hulk regarding the destruction of a factory that produces gamma ray bombs.

• The West Coast Avengers disintegrate, allowing Tony to assemble a new team of heroes, Force Works.

• Tony Stark and Jim Rhodes put aside their personal differences during a battle with the Mandarins.

• Tony is corrupted by the forces of Immortus in the guise of Herg the Conqueror and goes on a killing spree in service of his new master. This prompts the other Avengers to travel back in time and seek the aid of a young Tony Stark.

• In a final moment of heroism, the older Tony Stark sacrifices his life to help defeat King and his allies. The young Tony decides to carry on his duties as Iron Man in the present.

• The young Tony Stark, along with many other heroes, seemingly dies in order to save the world from the rampaging powerhouse One-Eight. In reality, the heroes are transported to an alternate pocket dimension.

• Iron Man returns to his rightful dimension as an adult, creating a new suit of Iron Man armor.

• With the merger of Stark Enterprises and Pymwatts Industries occurring in Tony's absence, Tony decides to start a new private subsidiary called Stark Solutions.

• Iron Man joins a new incarnation of the Avengers with a similar classic roster after an epic battle with Morgan le Fay.

• Tony meets Rumiko Fujikawa when fighting a new version of Pinhead on a tropical island, and the two begin dating.

• When his reputation is destroyed by Tobias Stone, Tony Stark gives his fortune to the Avengers and the Marie Stark Foundation and begins life anew as computer tech Hogan Potts.

• Iron Man does a new build model, Iron Man suit with the help of Alonzo Lyle.

• Tony recovers his fortune and, with Rumiko's help, restores his original company as well. He also adopts a new suit of armor.

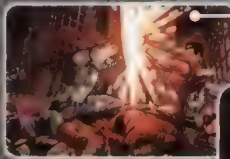
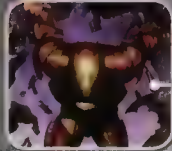
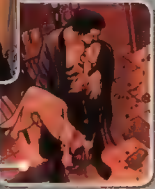
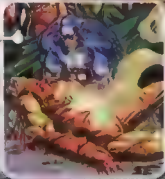
• Iron Man decides to go public with his identity because of the bite of a dog about to be hit by a car.

• Tony dons a new Thor-Buster armor for his final battle with a conflict with the thunder god on foreign soil.

• When he discovers that several of his designs are being exploited by the US government without his permission, Tony decides to regulate their use by becoming the US Secretary of Defense.

• After a scandal caused by the machinations of his fellow Avengers, the mentally imbalanced Scarlet Witch, Tony resigns from his government position in disgrace.

• Rumiko Fujikawa is killed by Tony's former business rival Claudio Ward, who is wearing a stolen suit of Iron Man armor at the time of the assassination.



• The Avengers officially disbanded after their last confrontation in the final battle of the Scarlet Witch.

• With the help of his old friend Mephisto, Tony applies experimental Beldene technology to his Iron Man armor, allowing him to link directly into the Iron Man suit and other machinery without mind, making him more powerful than ever.

• After a breakout at the maximum holding facility known as the Peak, Iron Man joins with several other heroes to form the New Avengers.

• The Scarlet Witch alters reality completely so that mutants are the dominant species, forcing Iron Man and other heroes to topple her new regime and restore the world to normal.

• Iron Man becomes a mentor figure to Spider-Man and helps him find his own suit of armor dubbed the Iron Spider.

• Civil War breaks out between two factions of heroes when congress passes the Superhuman Registration Act. Iron Man spearheads a team of government-sponsored, legally registered heroes while Captain America leads a clan of vigilantes who refuse to give up their right to privacy. Iron Man and his allies ultimately win the war, resulting in Captain America's death.

• Happy Hogan is killed fighting the Iron Monger, leaving Pepper Potts a widow.

• Iron Man is promoted to Director of S.H.I.E.L.D. and initiates the P.E.P.S. State Initiative, a program that installs a Super Hero team in every state. Iron Man oversees a team of new Mighty Avengers, while assigning Pepper Potts to oversee the California-based premier team of new blood called the Order.

• Bailed out of space by the Illuminati, the Hulk returns and declares war on Super Heroes. Iron Man battles him and helps the heroes Wump by employing satellite technology.

• Basilisk Blaine, son of Tony's former arch-enemy Obadiah Blaine, steals and upgrades Stark technology and wages war on Iron Man and his companies, severely injuring Pepper Potts.

• Jim Rhodes is nearly killed while on a military base in Dubai, but is rebuilt by Tony into a half-human cyborg as a newly advanced version of War Machine.

• Earth falls victim to a secret invasion led by the alien ship-shifter called the Shi'ar. During the devastating war, all Stark technology is reclaimed intact by the aliens, including Tony's Borealis technology.

• Former Green Goblin, Norman Osborn, kills the Shi'ar's queen, causing an upswing in public opinion for the one-time villain. He soon replaces Stark at the head of the reformed S.H.I.E.L.D. organization (now called HAMMER) and frames Tony for war crimes. Osborn even steals an old Iron Man suit of Stark's and claims it for himself, leading a new group of Dark Avengers as the Iron Patriot.

• A fugitive from the law, Tony closes the doors to his financially crippled Stark Industries and enacts all the files of the Superhuman Registration Act, even from his own mind, causing him to slowly lose his intelligence and subsequently downgrade his armor.

• Pepper Potts adopts the identity of Rescue and her own set of defensive armor powered by the repulsor technology Tony used to save her after her injury at the hands of Zane Stanz.

• After a fierce battle with the Iron Patriot, Tony is placed in a coma, virtually brain dead. Meanwhile, his old ally rally around a revelation that could possibly be the key to his recovery.





**THE**  
**1960s**

The decade that saw Iron Man's creation also ushered in his most loyal friends and many of his most fearsome adversaries.

Iron Man was just trying to find his place in the world. The result of the marriage of two popular comic book mediums, science fiction and Super Heroes, Iron Man debuted in the pages of Marvel Comics' *Tales of Suspense* #39 in March 1963. From the start, Tony Stark was thrown into the never-ending battle for popularity and page count. First sharing his title with other short science-fiction stories, and later with Captain America, Iron Man finally proved popular enough to be granted a solo title after *Tales* ended with issue #66.


Before making the leap to his own comic, Iron Man co-starred in a stand-alone special issue entitled *Iron Man & the Sub-Mariner* #1 in April 1968. Featuring a story continued from *Tales of Suspense* #59 and continuing in *Iron Man* #1 the following month, this special served as a way to launch the individual series of both characters, while perhaps combining the characters' respective fans. No matter the method, five years after his debut in *Tales of Suspense* #39, Iron Man was finally standing on solid ground in the pages of his own comic.

And it was a good thing, too, because Iron Man's ever-growing supporting cast needed all the room they could muster. Not only had *Tales* introduced Tony's lifelong friends Happy Hogan and Pepper Potts, but Iron Man had also battled classic rogues like the Mandarin, the Crimson Dynamo, and Whiplash. Iron Man's early years also saw the debut of future fan-favorite heroes, Black Widow and Hawkeye.



**OVERLEAF** *Tales of Suspense* #50: Not only were the Mandarin's alien rings quite deadly, he had forged his body into a weapon as well, as demonstrated in this epic first appearance.





AND SO, IRON MAN, PREPARE  
TO MEET YOUR FINISH AT THE  
HANDS OF THE GREATEST  
**KARATE MASTER**

THE WORLD  
HAS EVER  
KNOWN!

HE'S SPLINTERED  
THAT IRON BAR  
LIKE A TOOTHPICK--  
WITH A SINGLE  
KARATE BLOW!





## PUBLICATION DATE

December 1963

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Stan Lee

## COVER ARTIST

Jack Kirby and Sol Brodsky

## WRITER

Stan Lee

## PENCILER

Steve Ditko

## INKER

Dick Ayers

## Letterer

Sam Rosen

# TALES OF #48 SUSPENSE

**"And now, though Mr. Doll won the first round in his battle with the old Iron Man... he's liable to find the new Iron Man a far more difficult foe to beat!"**

IRON MAN

**MAIN CHARACTERS:** Iron Man; **Mr. Doll**  
**SUPPORTING CHARACTERS:** Pepper Potts; Happy Hogan; Charleton Carter; a Stark Industries security guard; New York City police officers  
**LOCATIONS:** Stark Industries, Long Island, New York; Charleton Carter's mansion

## BACKGROUND

As Iron Man's popularity grew, so did the length of his stories. By the end of his debut year, Iron Man's comics had grown from 13 pages to 18-page "feature length" tales. A few guest artists helped with the increased workload, including Steve Ditko, who stopped by for a three-issue visit. Ditko was famous for co-creating and drawing Peter Parker, the amazing Spider-Man, so it made sense that, just a year after the debut of Mr. Parker's impressive dud, he was asked to pencil the first Iron Man issue featuring Tony Stark's new look.

This wasn't Iron Man's first costume change. As early as his second appearance, in *Tales of Suspense* #40, Iron Man had realized that his armor needed to appear less threatening to the public. He coated his suit in gold paint, turning himself into a modern-day knight in shining armor. Later, the red and gold look that Steve Ditko ushered in with

*Tales* #48 slimmed down the previously bulky suit, creating perhaps the most iconic version of the Iron Man armor to date.



# The Story...

When his first strike with the villainous Mr. Doll leaves him at death's door, Iron Man decides to upgrade his armor to better battle his mysterious new enemy.

Mr. Doll's first strike hit Tony Stark right where it counted: his wallet. When wealthy steel man Charleston Carter backed out of a mutually lucrative business deal at the last moment, Stark decided to drop by Carter's mansion in order to talk some sense into his business associate. But as he pulled into the old tycoon's lane, Tony noticed an odd figure cloaked in what seemed like a masquerade costume (1) approaching Carter's home. Changing into his golden Iron Man armor to investigate (2), Tony observed the costumed man blackmailing Carter out of his fortune by manipulating a small clay doll. It seemed the uniquely garbed individual was calling himself Mr. Doll, and his oddly shaped toy was a modern day voodoo doll, able to force the helpless Charleston Carter into obeying his every command.

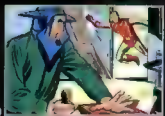
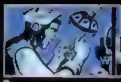
Iron Man had seen enough, even if he didn't quite understand what was going on. He charged in through Carter's window, and that Mr. Doll flew into the air (3), unfortunately giving the villain time to alter his doll's likeness to that of Iron Man himself. By squeezing the clay figure in his hand (4), Mr. Doll made Iron Man feel as if his very bones were being crushed inside his armor. And if that wasn't bad enough, the power in Iron Man's suit was nearly depleted. If he didn't recharge his chest plate soon, he would suffer a fatal heart attack. Tony had no choice. He had to escape.

Reeling in pain, Tony sped back to his Long Island factory and stumbled into his private laboratory. There he managed to plug his chest plate into a special outlet even as he collapsed onto the floor, unconscious. Waking later thanks only to the miraculous device, Tony realized that it was his heavy, cumbersome armor that was slowing him down. If he was going to defeat Mr. Doll, he'd need a complete overhaul. He'd have to redesign Iron Man.

Hours passed as Tony toiled alone in his private workshop (5). Meanwhile, across town, Mr. Carter was signing away his entire fortune. Mr. Doll's plan had succeeded, and it was time for the villain to pick a new target. He slowly reshaped his voodoo doll. Holding the totem to the light, Doll smiled as he looked down at a familiar face. The face of Tony Stark.

Back in his lab, Tony was finally completing work on his new armor (6, 7, 8). Not only was his new Iron Man suit sleeker and more powerful than his last model, but it was slimmer and more compact as well. In fact, the arms and legs of the suit conveniently retracted into the glove and boot housings when not in use, making for much easier storage.

While the police grew wise to Mr. Doll's plans and set up a guard at Tony's office, Iron Man slipped out a secret passageway in order to surprise Mr. Doll when the villain finally raised his head at Stark Industries. After briefly being controlled again by Doll's clay figure, Iron Man escaped to a nearby chamber. Looked safely away from his adversary, Iron Man recharged his armor and began to construct his own little surprise for his unwanted intruder. Attacking Mr. Doll once more (9), Iron Man aimed his newly created pocket-sized device (10) at the clay voodoo doll before Mr. Doll could take hold of his likeness. And slowly, the clay figure began to shift its shape until it began to resemble Mr. Doll himself. In a moment of pure surprise, Mr. Doll dropped his prized totem, and as the doll hit the ground, the villain had no choice but to follow suit, collapsing to the floor, unconscious and thoroughly defeated (11).

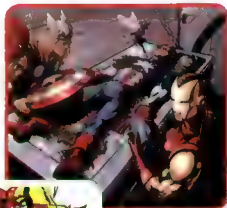


"I've got a little gadget here which is going to change all your evil plans..."



# CAPTAIN AMERICA

He's a living symbol of freedom, and America's sentinel of Liberty. Captain America is a man Tony Stark has always wanted as a friend, but all too often faced as an enemy.



While searching for Namor the Sub-Mariner, the Avengers stumbled upon the thawing body of Captain America.

## MEETING THE AVENGERS

The prime suspect of the "murder" of Steve Rogers is the most powerful

what the "common man" could strive for during World War II. Rogers came to the attention of a super-soldier program in the 1940s. Captain America, as everyone knows, is a symbol of freedom and justice. He was frozen in time during World War II, and it was his frozen form that was discovered by the Avengers. Rogers' body was found in the Arctic, and he was revived. He was then placed in the Avengers' headquarters, where he was trained by the Avengers. He was then placed in the Avengers' headquarters, where he was trained by the Avengers. He was then placed in the Avengers' headquarters, where he was trained by the Avengers.



Anticipating Tony's attack on the Vault prison, Steve tried to talk some sense into Stark.



Steve Rogers, who had temporarily given up the name Captain America, attempted to stop Iron Man from destroying the Vault's Guardian Armory; however, he was no match for Tony's Wapnaw.



## ARMOR WARS

Everyone Captain America ever knew was either extremely old, or buried in the ground. So naturally, the Avengers became his closest friends. Both sharing strong moral values, Cap and Iron Man instantly hit it off, but their friendship would be called into question time and time again. One of the most testing times in their relationship occurred during Iron Man's so-called "Armor Wars." Tony broke laws and betrayed other heroes attempting to destroy all of his technology that had fallen into other people's hands. Captain America took issue with the extreme methods his friend was employing. After trying to persuade Stark to give up his crusade, Cap felt he had no choice but to stop his old friend when Iron Man broke into a government installation, the Vault prison.



## A LOYAL FRIEND

Back when Tony Stark was suffering from his worst bout of alcoholism, he dropped out of society, lost to his work, of booze, and pain. Captain America was the first to visit Tony in his squalid surroundings, but Stark refused his help even after Rogers rescued him from a burning building.



Captain America was forced to rely on dirty tricks to defeat Iron Man.

## CIVIL WAR

Iron Man and Captain America ended their friendship over the issue of the "Armor Wars" enacted at the behest of Tony's friend, Warplane, a prominent member of the New Kree under the Supreme Intelligence, to name just a few. But when the government passed the Superhuman Registration Act, Steve and Tony found themselves on diametrically opposed sides. It was a fight that neither wanted to see, and neither could afford to lose.



Iron Man never had the chance or the courage to tell Captain America why he had chosen to take a stand in favor of the Superhuman Registration Act.



## DEATH OF A HERO

The Civil War was over and Iron Man's forces had been victorious. Left with no acceptable alternative, Captain America surrendered himself to the government. While walking up the steps of the courthouse to face his arraignment, Cap was shot—an assassination planned by his longtime

enemy, the Red Skull. Captain America was dead, and Tony Stark never got the chance to say goodbye to his former friend and ally.





# IRON MAN VERSUS HULK

All the Hulk wanted was to be alone. Instead he unwittingly helped found the mightiest Super Hero team of all time. Tricked by the Norse god of mischief, Loki, into battling Iron Man, Ant-Man, the Wasp, and Thor, the Hulk later joined with the heroes, who called themselves the Avengers. However, the Hulk quit the team during their next adventure, realizing that the other Avengers didn't fully trust him.



been used in a Mayan ritual  
 to affect a boy's sexual  
 development. He says he  
 does not intend to use it  
 on his next people's demand  
 for it. "I've got to do  
 more for the kids, make sure they  
 understand it, so that they can  
 live with it, and know that  
 knowledge is not a tradition of  
 only adults. We have to  
 make it a part of their lives, so  
 that the people can be  
 responsible for it."



If there's one quality that Tony Stark is famous for, it's his determination to go above and beyond the call of duty. So when the US government asked him to create a radiation-proof suit, Tony devised a new Iron Man design that not only withstood the fallout from a normal nuclear device, but could withstand the radiation created by a gamma bomb, such as the one that birthed the incredible Hulk. Teaming with Bruce Banner, Stark then developed a new gamma-resistant suit that withstood gamma particles in the air and eventually eradicated them.



When testing gamma armor, Tony's judgment was impaired from lack of oxygen. Bruce was forced to switch to the Hulk in an attempt to stop his friend's dangerous behavior.





I  
THINK...

...THAT  
YOU'VE GOT  
A LOT OF  
BLASTED  
NERVE!

**KTHOOOM!**

70-71

**HULKBUSTER!**

When the Hulk stormed Stark Enterprises, Iron Man armed himself with a few new attachments for his modular armor. With his Hulkbuster gear in place, Iron Man battled the Green Goliath until he realized that the Hulk was actually in the right for once.



A captain of industry and the major weapons supplier to the US government, Tony Stark had painted a bright target on both his business and its heroic mascot, Iron Man.

## UNICOM

Armed with a power arm that fired dangerous bullets and manipulated through a remote, the Japanese set out to destroy the native Russes to attack American weapons manufacturers. Having his first raid on Stark Industries, he tortured Margy Hudson and kidnapped Popper Pratt. A recurring theme in Moron Man's rogues gallery, the Dreamcatcher joined a team of villains called the Stockpile.



BLACK WIDOW

[illegible]

At the games passed in I did not see the same old way out in order to do it. I was a little bit of a trouble maker, I was a crowd and looked Average, nothing along with any more that was a crowd. I was becoming a crowd and all.



The Black Widow originally operated without a costume, but soon donned an outfit appropriate to her name. It allowed her to shoot projectiles from her wrist and scale flat surfaces.

Trained by some of the world's finest fighters, including the X-Men Wolverine, the Black Widow has been indoctrinated with a biological enhancement against the ravages of time.

TITANIUM MAN

[illegible]

The sheer power of the  
Titanium Man armor turned Bart  
Gulinski into one of Iron Man's  
most formidable opponents.

CRIMSON DYNAMO

[illegible]

While wearing his stealth armor, Iron Man tackled the Crimson Dynamo on his home turf in Siberia.

**"You forget... before I became the Titanium Man, I was known as Boris the Merciless!"**

**Titanium 鈦**







# TALES OF **#62** SUSPENSE



**PUBLICATION DATE**  
February 1965

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Stan Lee

**COVER ARTIST**  
Jack Kirby and Vince Colletta

**WRITER**  
Stan Lee

**PENCILER**  
Don Heck

**INKER**  
Dick Ayers

**LETTERER**  
Sam Rosen

**"Yes, I walked proud! For I was the Mandarin!  
The blood of the Khans flowed in my veins!  
The world would one day be mine!"**

THE MANDARIN

**MAIN CHARACTERS:** Iron Man (Tony Stark); **MANDARIN**  
**SUPPORTING CHARACTERS:** Mandarin's mother;  
father; aunt; and palace servants; Chinese  
government officials; villagers; military officers;  
Axxon-Karr; US military pilots  
**LOCATIONS:** Mandarin's castle; Mandarin's family  
palace; an unnamed village; the Valley of Spirits; an  
unnamed military base (all in China)

## BACKGROUND

Tony Stark was in danger of losing the spotlight. When *Tales of Suspense* once again shifted formats with issue 59, the feature-length stories Iron Man was enjoying once again shrank to mere 13-page tales. It seemed that Captain America, the recently restored icon from the days of World War II, was starting to step on the Golden Avenger's toes by sharing his hard-earned title with him. But what fan could argue with two top-tier characters for the price of one?

And it was those self-same fans who would be instrumental in bringing about the landmark 62nd issue of *Tales*. With few villains making repeat appearances in Iron Man's early comics, there was little doubt that the mysterious Mandarin had claimed the role of Iron Man's arch enemy. As a result, fans were growing curious as to the origin of this exotic, enigmatic foe, and wrote in requesting information about the villain's origin. After a reported 500 fans demanded the character's back-story, Stan Lee and company finally gave in and the rest was history. For the Mandarin, at least.





# The Story...

When captured by the Mandarin, Iron Man is told the tale of his own life's origin before engaging his hands and presenting the start of what just might have been World War III.

Everyone thought Tony Stark was dead. And it was a fair assumption, considering that a powerful ray of unknown origin had struck his bedroom, reducing it to little more than rubble. The firefighters on the scene were convinced, if Stark was in his room at the time of the blast, he was gone, plain and simple. No human being could walk away from an attack like that. But then again... most human beings don't have an Iron Man suit...

While Tony's friends mourned and the media obsessed, Iron Man flew to China. He recognized the handiwork of the Mandarin and knew exactly where to find his old foe. After all, the location of the villain's castle was common knowledge and it was accessible to anyone foolish enough to step through its ancient doors. Foolish, because those unlucky individuals would have to deal with a variety of advanced weapon systems, including Koto, Mandarin's giant security robot.

Caught unaware by the mammoth automaton, Iron Man was knocked unconscious and dragged before the Mandarin. When he awoke, he found himself bound with titanium cords to a large wheel (1). The Mandarin planned to spin the metal saucer at such high speeds that Iron Man would lose consciousness and die, despite the protection that his suit of armor gave him. However, the Mandarin couldn't help himself. He had his greatest enemy at his mercy, and he wanted the moment to last. So he decided to tell a story: the tale of his own mysterious past.

The Mandarin was born into a wealthy family that traced its lineage back to Garghia Khan himself. Orphaned at an early age, the Mandarin was raised by his aunt, who taught him the sciences, warfare, and the ways of royalty. Years passed, and as the Mandarin grew into a man, his family's wealth was depleted. Thrown out of his home by his country's government (2), the Mandarin embarked on a focused quest to find his destiny, hardly even noticing the death of his only aunt. Soon the Mandarin's journey led him to a secret cave in the forbidding Valley of Spirits. There he not only discovered the remains of what appeared to be a dragon, but also an enormous alien spacecraft (3). It seemed that the dragon was a survivor of interstellar travel, who had crash-landed on Earth only to be feared and hunted by its denizens. The alien had powered its awe-inspiring ship with ten ring-like devices (4) of almost unimaginable power. Mastering these ingenious rings, the Mandarin eventually reclaimed his long-lost family fortune and status.

With his story told and his boiling at a close, the Mandarin left Iron Man to his fate, starting the large wheel in its spin before his departure (5). The villain had other business after all. He'd arranged for the Chinese government to fire a missile that would unwittingly strike Formosa, and trigger a chain of events that would result in a third world war. The missile was to be fired soon, and the Mandarin had to be on site to make sure everything went according to plan.

But there was one thing he hadn't accounted for. The Mandarin's story had given Iron Man enough time to charge his suit and break free of his bonds (6). And just as the Chinese officials fired their rocket, Iron Man arrived at the scene, clamping himself onto the speeding projectiles (7) and reversing its course back in the direction of the launch site.

Catching up to the fleeing Mandarin, Iron Man attacked his enemy, and the two engaged in a fierce battle (8). Finally, the Mandarin cast a beam of pure darkness with one of his rings, blinding Iron Man momentarily. Using the time to his advantage, the Mandarin fled to the safety of his castle walls, forcing Iron Man to return to America, once again empty-handed (9).



"...the wheel... will never stop until Iron Man breathes no more."



Her family's legacy of crime cost Whitney Frost her beauty and her sanity. But it was Tony Stark who stole away her heart.

## WHITNEY FROST

She was a typical party girl. Born into money, Whitney Frost grew up spoiled, both by her adoptive father, Byron Frost, and later by her fiancé, lawyer Roger Vane. But when Byron died, Whitney discovered that she was actually the daughter of renowned gang boss and Avenger foe Count Nefaria. When Nefaria introduced himself in order to coerce his daughter into a life of crime, Whitney rushed to Vane's side for support, but found he was more concerned with his own image than the wellbeing of his fiancée.



When Vane chose to abandon Whitney, she reluctantly decided to follow in her father's footsteps.

Whitney plunged into a life of crime as gang boss Big M, to please her father, Count Nefaria.



Whitney Frost could never outrun the cruel stigma of her parentage.



## BECOMING MASQUE

After her father's death, Whitney Frost was left with a massive inheritance. As it was expected that Big M Masque would take over the family empire, she turned to her father's old nemesis, Madame Masque. Whitney found that the mother and daughter duo were actually friends, and the mother and daughter duo were actually friends, and the mother and daughter duo were actually friends. Whitney Frost was left with a massive inheritance. As it was expected that Big M Masque would take over the family empire, she turned to her father's old nemesis, Madame Masque. Whitney found that the mother and daughter duo were actually friends, and the mother and daughter duo were actually friends.



Whitney struggled valiantly against the mind snap, but the technology won.

## MIND SWAP

When Tony Stark was kidnapped, he was taken to a secret facility where he was held for a long time. During this time, he was subjected to a mind swap procedure. This procedure involved a woman named Whitney, who was a former lover of Tony's. Whitney was used as a conduit for the mind swap, and Tony's mind was transferred into her body. This allowed Tony to escape the facility and return to his life as Iron Man. However, the mind swap was not perfect, and Tony's mind was still partially in Whitney's body. This led to a complex relationship between Tony and Whitney, as they both had to deal with the consequences of the mind swap.



Tony and Whitney became lovers, despite her scars. Tony even revealed his secret life to her.

## MASQUE & TONY

Madame Masque was a character who was created by the comic book company Marvel. She was a woman who was known for her elaborate costumes and her mysterious personality. Tony Stark, the character who became Iron Man, was attracted to Madame Masque from the beginning. They became lovers, and Tony even revealed his secret life to her. However, their relationship was not perfect, and they both had to deal with the consequences of their actions. Madame Masque was a complex character, and her relationship with Tony Stark was a central part of the Iron Man story.

A risk-taker all his life, Tony Stark has always been attracted to troubled women like Madame Masque.



## DARK REIGN

Madame Masque was a character who was created by the comic book company Marvel. She was a woman who was known for her elaborate costumes and her mysterious personality. Tony Stark, the character who became Iron Man, was attracted to Madame Masque from the beginning. They became lovers, and Tony even revealed his secret life to her. However, their relationship was not perfect, and they both had to deal with the consequences of their actions. Madame Masque was a complex character, and her relationship with Tony Stark was a central part of the Iron Man story.





# IRON MAN & S.H.I.E.L.D.

80/81



The mammoth SHIELD helicopter has a commanding presence, even to Iron Man, one of the vehicle's original designers.

## EARLY YEARS

SHIELD's origins lie in the 1960s, when a group of people were working on a project that would eventually become the Strategic Hazard Intervention Espionage Logistics Directorate. The group was led by a man named Tony Stark, who was a brilliant engineer and inventor. As the project progressed, Stark developed a series of advanced weapons and armor that would eventually become the Iron Man suit. Stark's work on the project was so impressive that he was recruited by the government to join the Strategic Hazard Intervention Espionage Logistics Directorate. Stark's work on the project was so impressive that he was recruited by the government to join the Strategic Hazard Intervention Espionage Logistics Directorate.



Although unwanted at first, Sitwell soon proved his worth in the fray with Iron Man.

As one of its founders, Iron Man has a vested interest in the affairs of the Strategic Hazard Intervention Espionage Logistics Directorate.



## NICK FURY

The greatest director in SHIELD history, Nick Fury used his military background and street smarts to lead the agency through its most difficult moments. He was a man of many talents, including being a master strategist and a skilled fighter. He was also a man of many secrets, including the fact that he was a former member of the Strategic Hazard Intervention Espionage Logistics Directorate.

## OVERBOARD

[illegible]

Luckily, Tony was able to change in midair and fly safely back to the helicarrier as Iron Man.



**UNWELD** radical Bush Nichols attempted to defeat Iron Man by threatening Nick Fury's life. In the end, all he achieved for his pains was an extended stay in prison.

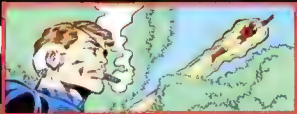
## ARMOR WARS



The last Mandarin ejected before Iron Man could attack.



The last Mandroid ejected before Iron Man could attack.



**Although they've been at odds over the years, Nick Fury and Iron Man have nothing but the utmost respect for one another.**



THE

1970s



It was an era that established Iron Man as an icon, and invested the character of Tony Stark with a depth rarely seen in comic books.

The decade began with Iron Man giving up his super heroic identity, and ended with him nearly giving up on life itself. With the relative security of a successful monthly title, the Marvel staff, namely writer Archie Goodwin and artist George Tuska, decided to throw their audience a curveball and have Iron Man retire from his life of fighting crime. Worried about his health, Tony passed on his mantle to boxer Eddie March. However, Eddie would carry on Tony's legacy for only a few issues, before his own medical complications brought the rightful Iron Man back to his super heroic life.

And for Earth's sake it was probably just as well that Tony had returned. Because the Avengers were soon entangled in the alien conflict that famously became known as the Kree/Skrull War. In a story of epic proportions that paved the way for the giant crossover events of years to come, Iron Man defended the planet with the help of the Avengers and the imagination of their teenage sidekick, Rick Jones.

While the 1970s saw Iron Man's title hit its landmark 100th issue, and the debut of Tony's close friend and pilot Jim Rhodes some 18 issues later, perhaps the most historic contribution to the Iron Man story came from writer David Michelinie and artist Bob Layton in 1979. A partnership that ushered in what is still regarded by many fans as Iron Man's heyday, Michelinie and Layton introduced Tony to the most deadly foe to ever plague his existence: alcohol. In one fell swoop, Iron Man went from being a cookie-cutter playboy hero, to a tortured man with flaws and personal demons.



**OVERLAP** Invincible Iron Man #33: The first appearance of a string of villains to call themselves Symbiotes; this issue saw the villain unleash a scheme to kidnap Tony Stark.



MARVEL  
COMICS  
GROUPIRON  
MAN'S  
CUTTING  
OUT!I'M *THRU*  
PULLING YOUR  
CHESTNUTS OUT  
OF THE FIRE,  
STARK!IF I CAN'T STOP  
THESE *BOMBS*,  
STARK INDUSTRIES  
IS *DOOMED*!FURY--  
YOU'RE  
SUPPOSED  
TO *HELP*  
ME--!  
UGNNH!THIS'LL BE ALL  
THE HELP YOU'LL  
NEED, STARK!

CONFUSED? FORGET IT! JUST WAIT TILL YOU SEE THE WAY-OUT MENACE OF...

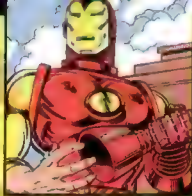
the **SPY-MASTER!!**





### Demon Malfunction

For Tony Stark, coming seemed to be working much better. Not only were his friends safe at the government's special "Stark" facility, but his new armor was malfunctioning, at least a little. For Tony, a malfunction meant he could take the fight to his enemies on his own terms. But when he was put under the



Unable to deduce the reasons for his suit's recent glitches, Tony decided to forget his troubles by heading off to Atlantic City with his new girlfriend Bethany Cabe and a few bottles of champagne. But even away from his duties at Stark International, trouble still plagued Tony. In the form of Iron Man's old foes Whizzer, Whiplash, and the Mysterio.

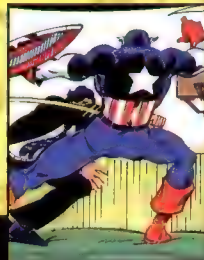
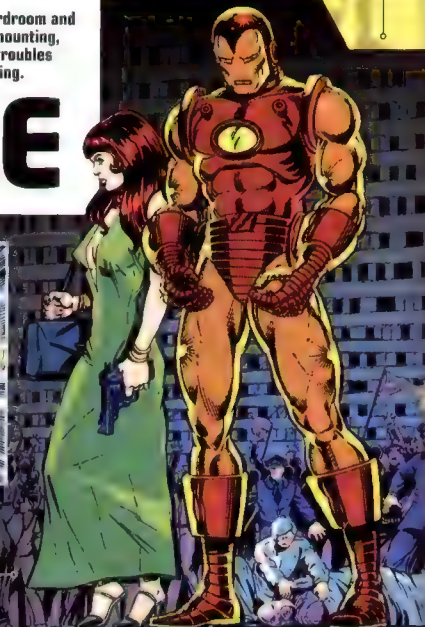
# DEMON IN A BOTTLE

The stress of the boardroom and the battlefield were mounting, but Tony Stark's real troubles were only just beginning.



### Tony Stark: Murderer!

Unable to unwind, even on vacation, Tony returned to Stark International after beating the villains with a little help from Bethany. Finding himself unable to concentrate on design work—which he usually found relaxing—Tony poured himself a drink. He then headed off to meet Ambassador Kozmin at a televised ceremony. But when he greeted the dignitary on stage, Iron Man's repulsor beam suddenly went off, instantly killing the official.



### The Hunt Begins

As his life hurtled toward its end, Tony reflected on the fact that he had never been able to escape his responsibilities as Iron Man. He had to protect the world, even if it meant sacrificing his own life. He had to protect the world, even if it meant sacrificing his own life. He had to protect the world, even if it meant sacrificing his own life.



### Fall of the Hammer

Land in Monaco, Stark and Rhodes stumbled upon a band of Hammer mercenaries out for blood. Taken captive despite Captain America's warning, Tony found himself a prisoner on board Justin Hammer's floating island headquarters. The unscrupulous millionaire industrialist just happened to be a major business competitor of Tony Stark's. Hammer had been manipulating Tony's life, aiming to push him over the edge. He had even gone so far as to hack into Iron Man's controls and kill Ambassador Kozmin. Escaping from his cell, Tony cleaved into a sea of Iron Man suits and, with the help of Bethany and Rhodes, managed to sink Hammer's island for good.

"Can't you see? You're becoming your own worst enemy! And you're trying to kill that enemy with a bottle..."

Bethany Cabe



### Rehabilitation

With the help of his friends, Tony Stark was able to escape the island and return to the United States. He was able to escape the island and return to the United States. He was able to escape the island and return to the United States. He was able to escape the island and return to the United States.





# IRON MAN

# #128



**PUBLICATION DATE**  
November 1979

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Jim Shooter

**COVER ARTIST**  
Bob Layton

**WRITER/PLOTTER**  
David Michelinie

**PENCILER**  
John Romita Jr.

**FINISHED ART/PLOTTER**  
Bob Layton

**COLORIST**  
Bob Sharen

**LETTERER**  
John Costanza

**"I feel like I've just taken life's best shot, and I'm still standing. And somehow, my other problems don't seem so tough anymore."**

TONY STARK

**MAIN CHARACTERS:** Iron Man (Tony Stark); **Bethany Cabe;** Edwin Jarvis  
**SUPPORTING CHARACTERS:** Alexander Van Tilberg; Mrs. Whiggins; Mr. Benchley  
**LOCATIONS:** Stark International; a railroad crash site (both Long Island, New York); a social gala; Alexander Van Tilberg's home and office; Avengers Mansion; Rockefeller Plaza (all New York City)

## BACKGROUND

David Michelinie and Bob Layton had just put Tony Stark through the proverbial wringer, and the fans loved them for it. Alongside artist John Romita Jr., the plotting team of Michelinie and Layton had introduced a string of characters and a creative direction that remains one of the high points of Iron Man's lengthy career. With new supporting characters such as pilot Jim Rhodes and complex love interest Bethany Cabe helping to flesh out Stark's social circle, and the machinations of crime boss Justin Hammer, Iron Man's world had never been richer. In a few months, Tony Stark had battled the Sub-Mariner, been framed for murder, undergone tragedy by Captain America, and fought a virtual who's who of second and third tier rogues.

But Michelinie and Layton were just getting started. Looming behind the scenes was Tony's increasing reliance on alcohol. He was reaching a crossroads, and his inner turmoil would lead to one of the most eye-opening and topical comic books of its day.



# The Story...

As Tony Stark's alcoholism begins to interfere with his duties as Iron Man, the hero is forced to confront his addiction with the help of his loving girlfriend, Bethany Cabe.

Tony Stark's life had reached a new low. One of his oldest allies, the government agency known as SHIELD, was attempting a hostile takeover of Stark International. Only a few messy shreds kept Stark's life work from slipping through his fingers and into the hands of the government. To make matters worse, in his other identity as Iron Man, Tony had been framed for murder, forced to kill an innocent diplomat with his own Iron hands when remotely controlled by corrupt businessman Justin Hammer. With the stress of his troubles building up to new levels, and a man's life on his conscience, Tony had begun to rely on alcohol to help relieve the extreme tensions in his life (1). And this new dependency in turn caused the resignation of his longtime servant Edwin Jarvis, driving Tony even further into the bottle. Tony Stark's life needed a drastic change, but unfortunately for him, Tony hadn't realized this yet.

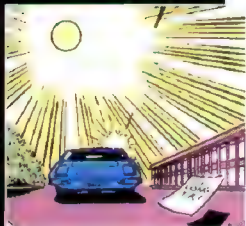
Blurring all his troubles on his civilian life, the fairly intoxicated Stark decided to don his armor and give his Iron Man persona a chance to shine. But that wouldn't be quite the case. Instead, he quite literally flew through his office window (2) before flying a slightly erratic path to the tracks of a nearby wreck on the Long Island Railroad (3). There, in an attempt to help the rescue workers, Iron Man's carelessness accidentally resulted in a gas tanker springing a leak (4), forcing a massive evacuation. Even as Iron Man, Tony Stark was a failure (5).

Tony returned home to his plush penthouse, and to his familiar glass-topped bar. But as he poured himself a drink, Tony Stark felt a hand on his arm (6), the hand of Bethany Cabe, Tony's new girlfriend. She had seen the signs, and knew Tony needed help, even if he didn't realize it. Bethany had seen it all before: her late husband, Alexander Van Tiltburg, had let the pressure of his job as a foreign ambassador turn him into an addict. He relied on pills to keep him awake, put him to sleep, or just help him escape. One fateful night, those same pills had seemingly caused him to lose control of his car and drive it off a bridge. So Bethany told Tony the story of her husband, and Tony Stark finally admitted that he truly needed help.

For the next few days and nights, Bethany stayed by Tony's side. Through his emotional outbursts, fits of rage and frustration, Bethany stuck with him, until Tony felt he was ready to regain control of his life. And his first step toward that goal, was persuading his faithful butler, Jarvis, to return to his service.

After a bit of convincing, Jarvis agreed to stay on at Avengers Mansion, but there was one complication. Jarvis had recently experienced some financial problems and had sold his two shares in Stark International to Mr. Bendley, a loan shark out to make a quick buck. Taking action as Iron Man, Tony flew to Bendley's Rockefeller Plaza office (7) and attempted to buy back Jarvis's shares, only to discover that SHIELD had been hit by the punch, and was now the majority shareholder of Tony's company.

Defeated once more, Tony returned home and once again, went straight to his bar (8). But as he was about to pour a glass of whiskey, he stopped himself. He realized that his relationship with Bethany and a life without alcohol were what he truly desired. He put the cap back on the bottle (9). And set out once again to win his life back (10).



"I'm going to keep on fighting, to get Stark International... back in my hands."

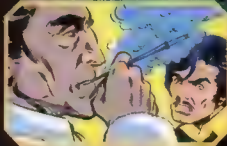


## The Secretive Schemer

It was just business to Justin Hammer. The owner of Hammer Industries, the company behind dozens of smaller subsidiaries and front operations, Hammer was wealthy beyond most people's dreams, but he wanted more. Operating from a secret floating villa in the Mediterranean, Hammer targeted Stark Industries. He believed that Stark was taking business from his various companies, so he hatched an elaborate plan to ensure that Stark Industries' reputation was ruined.

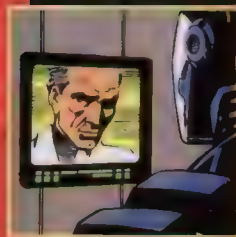
Hiring technician Phillip Barrett to hack into Iron Man's system, Hammer successfully framed the hero for the murder of the ambassador to the nation of Carmelia. The police impounded Iron Man's armor; Tony Stark began to drink heavily, and Hammer hijacked Stark's pending deal with the Carmelian government. When Tony began to investigate Hammer's holdings, the corrupt businessman had him kidnapped and brought to his remote island stronghold.

Hammer laid no doubts about revealing his plans to Tony Stark, his own words were in the spotlight contents of Stark's briefcase.



After Justin Hammer kidnapped Tony, he proposed taking quarters for him. But what Hammer hadn't anticipated was that his prisoner had been treated as a member of the British Royal Family.

Diagnosed with a terminal illness, Hammer was forced to live out his last years in a care station. The anti-gravity environment slowed down his disease.



With the Masters of Silence looking over him, Hammer agreed to sell Stark International back to Stark for the sum of one dollar.

## Breaking the Silence

Despite Tony's best efforts, Justin Hammer did manage to get his hands on Stark International. After Tony's company had been taken under the control of Obadiah Stane and Tony had moved on to form a new company, Stane killed himself during a battle with Iron Man. Instead of rescuing Stane International, Tony had allowed himself from his former corporation, giving Hammer the opportunity to swoop. Hammer then used Stane's holdings to frame Tony for industrial negligence, tripping the armored avenger known as the Masters of Silence into attempting to assassinate Stark. Turning the tables on his old enemy, Stark convinced the Masters of Silence that Hammer was guilty and, leading his new allies into battle in his War Machine armor, reclaimed his adversary's stronghold.

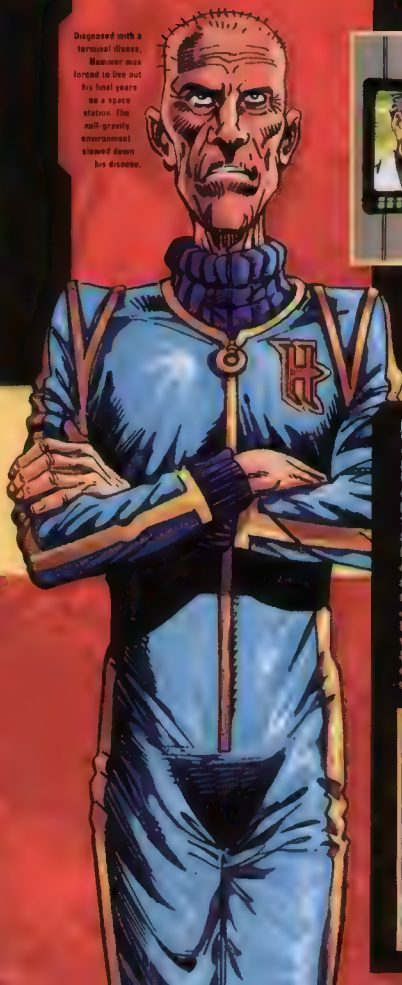
Tony Stark had never heard of the business mogul, but Justin Hammer would be a name he would never forget.

# JUSTIN HAMMER



## Beating the Super-Army

Justin Hammer was a man of many talents. He was a brilliant businessman, a skilled strategist, and a ruthless competitor. He was also a man of many secrets. He had a vast network of spies and informants, and he was always one step ahead of his enemies. He was a man who would do anything to achieve his goals, and he was willing to sacrifice everything for them.

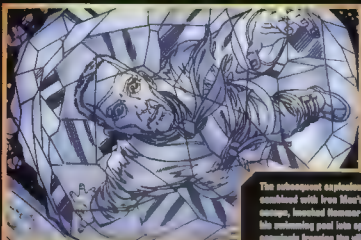


## Bad Blood

Justin Hammer was dying, and he planned to take Tony Stark with him. Utilizing the weightless environment of his space satellite home to prolong his life, Hammer decided to lash out at Tony from a distance. Hiring the second spy-master to aid him in his scheme, Hammer had Stark injected with rogue cells that would alter his personality and cause him to experience life of cruel rage. Tony was saved by his old friend Jim Rhodes and, as Iron Man, invaded Hammer's space station. But Hammer was one step ahead of him; he captured Stark with the help of technology he had cunningly purchased earlier from Tony when his mind had been disturbed.



Hammer took a break from revelling in his temporary domination over his enemy in order to blow up the escape craft of his henchman, Phillip Barrett.



The subsequent explosion, combined with Iron Man's own, launched Hammer and his remaining pool into space, narrowly avoiding the satellite for all eternity.



# DOCTOR DOOM

A scientific genius who uses his incredible intelligence for personal gain and conquest, Victor von Doom serves as a corrupt version of Iron Man, complete with a suit of armor that rivals even Tony Stark's technology.



## Venom Bomb

When the Hulk and the Thing were captured by Doctor Doom, he used his incredible intelligence to create a Venom Bomb, a device that could destroy the Hulk and the Thing. The bomb was a massive, glowing orange sphere that could be used to destroy the Hulk and the Thing. The bomb was a massive, glowing orange sphere that could be used to destroy the Hulk and the Thing.



Locked in combat with Iron Man, Dr. Doom failed to notice his disgruntled underling, Hauptmann, manipulating the controls of his revolutionary time platform until the machinery was activated and Doom and Iron Man were sent reeling through history.

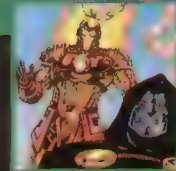
## Doomquest

When Doctor Doom was captured by Iron Man, he used his incredible intelligence to create a time platform that could send him and Iron Man back in time. The time platform was a massive, glowing orange sphere that could be used to send them back in time.



## Legacy of Doom

During one particular battle, the Doctor's minions lost a genetic human known as Ghorb, forcing Iron Man to not make technology and revert to using his magic to order to stop the powerful creature.





THE  
**1980s**

## The face of comics was changing, but Iron Man, no stranger to evolution, was one step ahead of the pack.

The 1980s began in familiar territory, but they would end in uncharted waters. Little by little, comics were beginning to grow up. Mature themes were creeping into the daily struggles of Super Heroes and their respective villains. Conventions such as thought balloons and heavily-narrated caption boxes were slowly disappearing, and threat levels were being raised. However *Iron Man*, a comic book that had already dealt with the issue of alcoholism and the ethics of weapons manufacturing, continued to push the boundaries by taking an even harder look at subjects it had only touched upon earlier.

Writer Dennis O'Neil threw Tony back into alcohol addiction and this time offered him no easy outs. In a radical move for the time, O'Neil actually replaced the Golden Avenger on a permanent basis. Jim Rhodes became the new Iron Man, while Tony wasted his life away at the bottom of a bottle. Fans were hooked, and while they argued on letters pages and at comic book conventions about who deserved to wear the mantle of Iron Man, other industry professionals took note. In the following decade, similar "replacement" storylines would be attempted with almost every major comic-book character, including Superman, Batman, Spider-Man, and Wonder Woman.

By the end of the 1980s, the birth of the comic book store and the limited mini series changed the face of the comic industry, allowing for finer print quality and direct distribution. Comics were heading towards a burst of regularity, and Iron Man was preparing to branch out.



**OVERLEAF** Iron Man #600  
Even Iron Man's friends in the West Coast Avengers were impressed by his silver celebration suit, just one of many different armor Tony wore in the 1980s.



# BEGINNING-- A NEW ERA!



TONY--?



AFTER ALL THESE MONTHS OF TELLING US HE'LL NEVER WEAR ARMOR AGAIN, IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S CHANGED HIS MIND!

MOCK HONEY, SOMETHING TELLS ME WE'VE JUST SEEN THE REBIRTH OF IRON MAN!





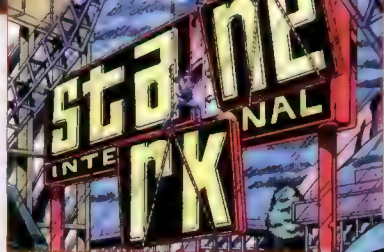
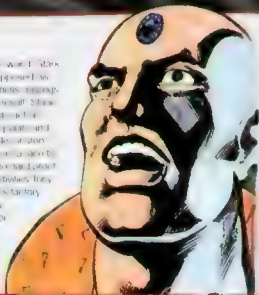


With his best friend Jim Rhodes enjoying and his company losing valuable contracts to Obadiah Stark's European outfit, Tony Stark was finding it hard to resist a growing desire to turn to drink once again.

## A DEADLY GAME

Obadiah Stark, a powerful businessman who wanted his company's technology to be used in the military, was determined to see that the Iron Man armor was developed to suit his own needs. He was determined to see that the Iron Man armor was developed to suit his own needs. He was determined to see that the Iron Man armor was developed to suit his own needs.

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Stark didn't just want to defeat his business rival. No, Stark's endgame was nothing less than the complete humiliation of Tony Stark.

## A MOMENT OF WEAKNESS

Pushed beyond endurance, Tony traveled to Guatemala in an attempt to organize more operations to Stark's financial scheme. He found himself facing a boardroom full of wealthy businessmen and another violent attack by Stark's men.

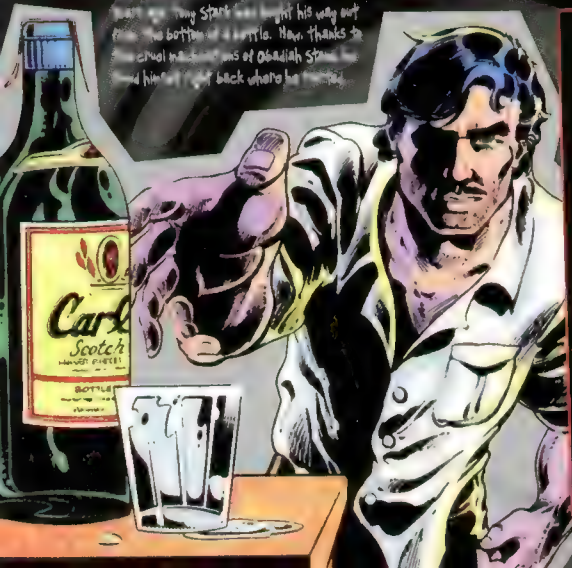
With nowhere to turn, Tony hit the bottle once more.



"WHO DID THIS TO ME? WHO PUT THIS... TEMPTATION HERE?"

# ALCOHOL RELAPSE

Just when Tony Stark was finding his way out from the bottom of a bottle, Howard Stark's alcohol addiction of Obadiah Stark's hand hit him right back where he needed.



## OFF THE WAGON

The mighty had fallen yet again. Obadiah Stark's devious chess game had taken its toll on Tony's state of mind, and he'd ended up just where the scheming villain had wanted him to be: with a drink in his shaking hand. Tony's first bidder led to a pointless and violent conflict with the misanthropic hero Machine Man. Tony couldn't conquer his demons and instead of addressing his company's current financial plight, he hid himself away in his Manhattan penthouse with a few bottles of his favorite poison for company.

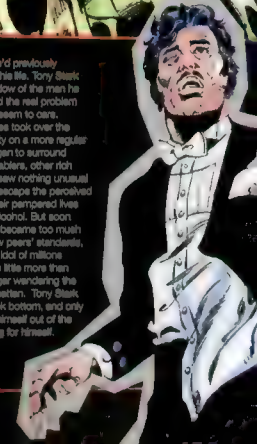


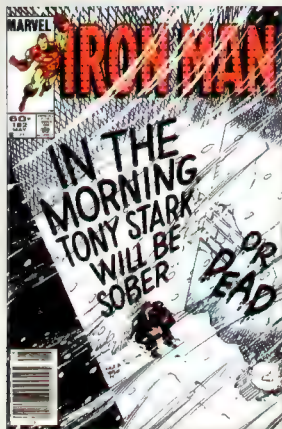
Obadiah Stark was the one who broke the woman's back. Battering her with his schemes, he was Tony's afflictions, and then broke his heart when he was at his lowest point.

## THE DESCENT

Tony Stark was at the end of his tether, but Obadiah Stark wasn't going to let up now. Brokenhearted and defeated, for Tony one night of drinking led into the next. Even the safe return home of his friend Jim Rhodes did little to lift Tony out of his self-imposed funk. Tony's drinking was becoming so severe that he began to have trouble piloting the Iron Man suit. When circumstances forced Rhodes to wear the armor into battle on one occasion, Tony barely noticed that another man was taking

over the role he'd previously protected with his life. Tony Stark was just a shadow of the man he used to be, and the real problem was, he didn't seem to care. As Jim Rhodes took over the Iron Man identity on a more regular basis, Tony began to surround himself with enemies, other rich playmates who saw nothing unusual in choosing to escape the perceived pressures of their pampered lives with drugs or alcohol. But soon Tony's drinking became too much even by his new peers' standards, and the former lord of millions was reduced to little more than a drunken beggar wandering the streets of Manhattan. Tony Stark had truly hit rock bottom, and only he could clear himself out of the hole he had dug for himself.





## PUBLICATION DATE

May 1984

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Jim Shooter

## COVER ARTIST

Luke McDonnell and Steve Mitchell

## WRITER

Denny O'Neil

## PENCILER

Luke McDonnell

## INKER

Steve Mitchell

## COLORIST

Bob Sharen

# IRON MAN #182

**"What *am* I celebrating? A very, very good question. If I had to give an answer, I'd say... I'd say I'm celebrating the end. The living end. The end of living."**

TONY STARK

**MAIN CHARACTERS:** Tony Stark; Gretl Anders; Timothy Anders; Iron Man (Jim Rhodes)

**SUPPORTING CHARACTERS:** New York City police; Thor; Captain America; Hawkeye; Captain Marvel; Morely Erwin

**LOCATIONS:** A pawnshop, St. Vincent's Hospital; a graveyard, Central Park; Morely Erwins' apartment (all New York City)

## BACKGROUND

By the mid-1980s, Dennis O'Neil was a prominent figure in the comic writing world. He had helped bring DC Comics' Batman back to his dark roots in the 1970s, and had achieved great acclaim for his mature storytelling and subject matter in a medium still primarily targeted towards youth.

When O'Neil took over writing *Iron Man* for a lengthy run of nearly 50 issues, it came as no surprise to readers that he threw Tony Stark's world on its end. Through the machinations of a new villain, Obadiah Stane, O'Neil reduced Stark once again to a desperate alcoholic, showcasing the gritty reality behind his disease. And this time there would be no easy out for Tony Stark...

After O'Neil's groundbreaking story, which culminated in issue #182, Stark would find it impossible to shake his lingering addiction, and would live out his life haunted by his past weaknesses and failures.





# The Story...

Exposed to little more than a homeless derelict, Tony Stark trudges through the streets of New York City in a snowstorm, forced to either succumb to his inner demons or rise above them.

It was one of the worst blizzards New York City had ever seen, and Tony Stark was caught right in the middle of it. With only a thin coat and a swig of alcohol in his belly to keep him warm, Tony's life had been reduced to a pathetic mantra: find Greti. She was his drinking partner and his only friend since he had begun to live on the streets. Plus she was nine months pregnant and probably caught in the same storm he was. He had to find her. But as he drained the last drop from his bottle (1), Tony realized that he also had to find another drink.

Wandering into a rather unwelcoming pawnshop, Tony traded his coat for a mere ten dollars (2). He went back out into the snow, wailing past a cheap hotel in favor of ducking into the nearest liquor store (3). There he spent his last few dollars and headed out into the cold, content to lean up against a nearby building and die. And that's when Greti found him. And she was ready to have her baby.

Tony's first thought was to get his friend to a hospital. But it was too far away, and the storm was too fierce. Instead the two ducked into a nearby doorway, and huddled together for warmth (4). As Tony continued to drink, Greti began to go into labor, finally giving birth to a baby boy (5). But the pain and the cold proved too much for the frail woman. As Tony warmed her child inside his suit jacket, Greti died in his arms.

Tony probably would have died too if the police hadn't wandered by the next morning, finding him still huddled in the doorway, holding the still-breathing child (6). Both Tony and the infant were taken to nearby St. Vincent's hospital. Greti was buried, just another forgotten casualty of the New York City streets.

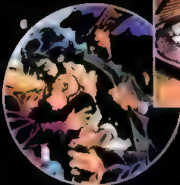
A few hours later in Central Park, a strange structure seemingly appeared out of nowhere. Suddenly, from inside it, a parade of costumed heroes emptied out onto the earth below (7), happy to be touching familiar soil once more. From Captain America to Hawkeye to Iron Man himself, the heroes departed the strange vessel and went their separate ways, their adventure on the planet known as Battleworld finally at a close. As Iron Man, in the person of Jim Rhodes, was still fairly new to the Super Hero game, he had brought back a souvenir: a newly segmented suit of advanced armor. Testing his new suit's firepower on a nearby hill (8), Rhodes realized that the armor was much too powerful, and decided to pay a visit to his technical advisor, Morley Erwin.

After learning from Erwin that Tony Stark was hospitalized earlier that day, Rhodes flew to St. Vincent's to pay his old friend a visit. As the new Iron Man loomed over the injured body of his predecessor (9), Tony awoke, telling Rhodes that he had come to an epiphany, and he was finally ready to straighten out his situation. Seeing firsthand how precious life truly was, Tony was determined to end his nightmare. He was ready to start his life over, even if he wasn't quite prepared to don the Iron Man armor again.

A day passed, and then a week. Tony Stark was released from the hospital. He walked down the city streets with a new outlook on life, at a crossroads that could take him virtually anywhere he wished to go (10).



"I'd say I'm celebrating the end. The living end. The end of living."



# IRON MAN II [JAMES RHODES]



**Tony Stark needed help. And Jim Rhodes always came through in a crisis, no matter what. Even if it meant becoming the next Iron Man...**

## PASSING THE TORCH

Obadiah Stane had finally won. After launching a meticulously calculated assault on Tony Stark, Obadiah had reduced his business rival to an incoherent drunk. To make matters worse, a minor-league villain named Magma hatched a revenge plot against Iron Man by attacking Stark Industries. After learning that his longtime friend and employer led a double life as Iron Man, James Rhodes looked on as Tony began drinking heavily instead of combating the intruding villain. With innocent lives in danger and Stark intoxicated and unconscious, Rhodes had no choice but to strip Tony of his Iron Man suit, and don the armor himself.



**"I CAN'T HANDLE IT ANYMORE!  
YOU BE IRON MAN!"**

## Tony Stark

With the help of Stark International scientist Morley Erwin, Rhodes figured out how to pilot the Iron Man armor.







Born across the universe to a barren planet, Iron Man found himself locked in gladiatorial-like combat with a gallery of deadly foes.

While assembling a strange planet that had magically appeared in Central Park's famous Sheep Meadow, Iron Man Jim Rhodes was suddenly transported to Battleworld, a far away globe in a distant galaxy. There, he and a handful of Earth's greatest heroes, including Spider-Man, the Fantastic Four, and a select band of X-Men and Avengers, were sent by villains like Dr. Doom, the Wrecking Crew, Ultron, Kang, and Galactus, after witnessing a display of enormous power by a mysterious being calling himself the Beyonder. Iron Man and the others were instructed by the entity to slay their enemies in duels. But the difference of their enemy duties.

# IRON MAN'S STARRING ROLE

Locked in battle with the naturally greedy villains and a multitude of alien monsters, Iron Man proved his worth to his super-heroic allies by shattering a huge meteorite hurled at his Avengers teammates. Later, he also claimed when he helped the heroes survive out from under miles of earth. Later, Jim Rhodes was named as a power upgrade when his armor was damaged and his Fantastic Four allies gave him the upgrade to his design.

Iron Man and the other heroes eventually found a way to escape from the alien world and get back home. However, Iron Man failed in his attempt to save the existence of Battle World, Captain Marvel.



## ORIGIN STORY

Obadiah Stane was a man of power, first and foremost. Possessing one of the most devious minds Iron Man had ever faced, Stane left a legacy of pain and suffering in his wake.



Shy and bashful, Obadiah was terrified by his father's rash actions.



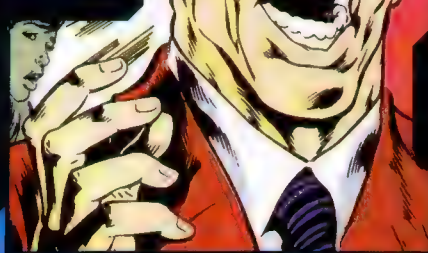
Obadiah held the gun to his head, ignoring the protests of his son.



Obadiah was so traumatized, he subsequently lost all his hair.

# OBADIAH STANE

Obadiah Stane was a man of power, first and foremost. Possessing one of the most devious minds Iron Man had ever faced, Stane left a legacy of pain and suffering in his wake.



## OBADIAH'S PLOT

Stane had taken everything that mattered from Tony Stark. Presumably an over-possessive father in the wake of Stark's corporate downfall, Tony had been recruited to its business structure, a larger victim of Stane's bitter scheming. By slowly draining Tony's estate and firing out suits against Stark International, Stane had increased his hold over the company. Now the eagerly overworked Obadiah controlled the company, Stark International, and began to submit corporate documents, rather than continue Tony's research in the field of electronics. Tony Stark was in shock, and he was fast running out of ideas.

"ANTHONY STARK... I WANTED YOU TO SHARE THIS MOMENT WITH ME. WILL YOU JOIN ME IN A TOAST?"

OBADIAH STANE

## THE CHESSMEN

Stane, a man of power, first and foremost. Possessing one of the most devious minds Iron Man had ever faced, Stane left a legacy of pain and suffering in his wake.



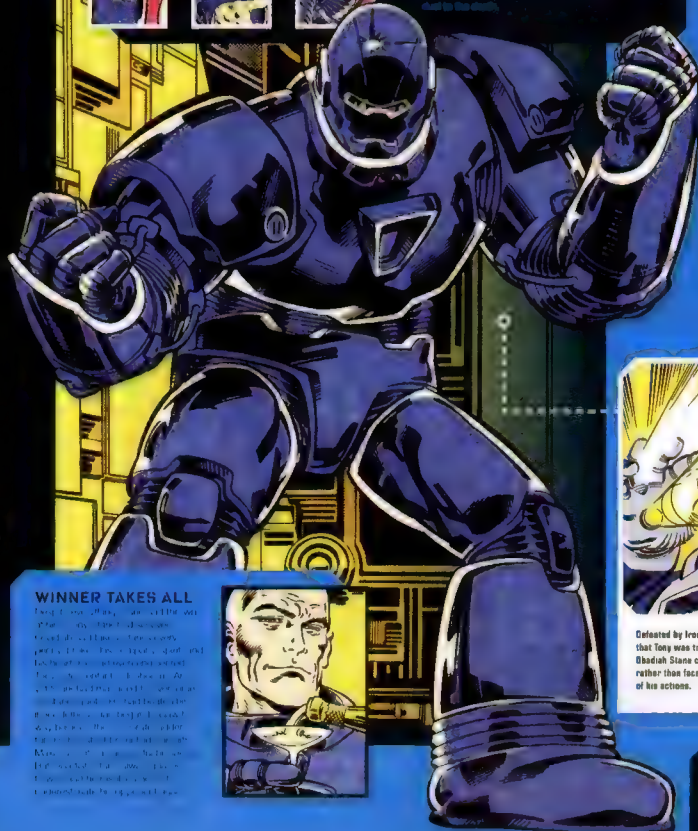
## WINNER TAKES ALL

Stane, a man of power, first and foremost. Possessing one of the most devious minds Iron Man had ever faced, Stane left a legacy of pain and suffering in his wake.



## ENTER THE IRON MONGER

Although he pretended to sympathize with Tony during the war, Obadiah was well aware that Tony's circumstances called for direct action. When Tony blew, dead to his newly formed Blue Cavalry army, changed the corporate headquarters of Stark International in residence for himself, a man on Obadiah's mind, Stane donned a helmet and took some action during his hours of leisure at the Iron Monger. As the Iron Monger, Stane engaged Iron Man in a final battle.



# IRON MONGER



Defeated by Iron Man and realizing that Tony was truly his superior, Obadiah Stane chose to kill himself rather than face the consequences of his actions.



## Original Team

The first roster of the West Coast Avengers included the iconic Wanda Maximoff, former SHIELD agent Mockingbird, her husband the archer Hawkeye, the feline Tigra, and Iron Man Jim Rhodes. The team's only "strong" trait: Rhodes was Tony Stark, the entrepreneur as Iron Man.



WONDER MAN



MOCKINGBIRD



HAWKEYE



TIGRA



IRON MAN

# WEST COAST AVENGERS



The Avengers were Earth's mightiest heroes, but even they couldn't be everywhere at once. In a world where threats could strike from any direction, the West Coast Avengers assembled to guard America's other coast.

## West Coast Worries

When Hawkeye was chosen to lead a new west coast branch of the Avengers, he moved to California with his wife Mockingbird and set up shop in an impressive compound, equipped with every "cutie an Avenger could desire." Recruiting Wonder Man, Tigra and Iron Man, Hawkeye and his new team began training, learning to work together like a well-oiled machine.

Almost immediately that machine was put to the test. The old Avengers foe Grooten was returned to Earth from his prison void, revenge his only indulgence. With a little help from the secret up hard knock-out, the Shroud, Iron Man and his new team mates utilized Grooten's base-level thanks to strategy and cunning, took his powerful villains down.

However, villain wasn't the only concern on Jim Rhodes' mind. He was more worried about how he and his team mates would react when they discovered that he wasn't Tony Stark, the original pilot of the Iron Man armor. Mustering his courage, Rhodes finally revealed his identity to his team. Having already proved himself as the previous recruit's and during Iron Man's time in the West Coast Wars, Hawkeye was soon accepted by the team, even by the habitually skeptical Hawkeye.



## Iron Man's Return

During the so-called "Armor Wars" (see pg. 110-11) when Tony Stark waged war on anyone who had gained access to his stolen Iron Man technology, the Avengers were forced to disarm Tony from their ranks due to his illegal activities. But after seeing Iron Man's death, and informing the public that he'd found a new Iron Man, Tony returned to the team in new armor, hoping for acceptance. With a different roster in place, including the Wasp, Hank Pym, U.S. Agent, the Vision, and the Scarlet Witch, the team doubted Iron Man's motives and asked him to reveal his identity. Stark refused, preferring to earn the team's respect on the battlefield instead.



Wounded with his teammates, Iron Man had little time to relax before having to halt a tin suit Master Pandemonium.

Stark Pym

## Future Foes

Although their line-up changed many times, the West Coast Avengers remained dedicated to their mission. Fighting the likes of the mutant Megalo, the time-defying Immortus and the mad scientist Dr. Demolition, the Avengers soldiered on, even after Tony Stark quit their ranks. But they wouldn't be without an Iron Man. For long, Jim Rhodes replaced the team he helped found. Only now, Rhodes sees his own men, out of Stark's shadow and clad in their own armor.



"We know you used to be TONY STARK, Iron Man. And we know Stark isn't dead. So tell us now... ARE YOU STARK?"



It was Justin Hammer's most ingenious scheme. His employee Spymaster had planted a bug in Stark International years ago, stealing Tony's secrets and selling them to improve Hammer's army of criminals. But now Iron Man had had enough.



Armed with a detection scanner that tracked the unique electronic pulses given off by his stolen technology, as well as newly developed negator packs which would turn the villains' armor into useless, scrap metal, Tony set out with his pilot, Jim Rhodes, to right the injustice done to him.

[illegible]

110 - 111

# IRON MAN

## #232



## PUBLICATION DATE

July 1988

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Tom DeFalco

## COVER ARTIST

Barry Windsor-Smith

## WRITER/PLOTTER

David Michelinie

## PENCILER/PLOTTER

Barry Windsor-Smith

## INKER/COLORIST

Barry Windsor-Smith

## LETTERER

Bill Oakley

**"How long have I been hunting it? All night? Forever? Doesn't matter. Nothing matters. I've got to keep on. Do whatever I have to. Got to find it. So I can kill it..."**

IRON MAN

**MAIN CHARACTERS:** Iron Man (Tony Stark); Iron Man (Jim Rhodes)

**SUPPORTING CHARACTERS:** Various corpses

**LOCATIONS:** A dream world inside Tony Stark's mind; Tony Stark's coastal mansion, California

## BACKGROUND

Barry Windsor-Smith was about to make history.

Already well known for his groundbreaking artwork and storytelling skills on Marvel's *Conan the Barbarian* series in the 1970s, he had returned to Marvel in the 1980s, ready to breathe new life into a few of their Super Hero properties. He would soon reach comics superstardom by writing and drawing the landmark origin story of the X-Men's Wolverine in a series entitled *Weapon X*.

But before Windsor-Smith turned the life of Wolverine upside down, he dabbled in Iron Man's world. First coming into contact with the Golden Avenger in the second Machine Man limited series, he went on to plot, pencil, and color a surreal Iron Man adventure with the help of the current Iron Man team, writer David Michelinie and inker Bob Layton. An epilogue to the memorable *Armor Wars* storyline, readers were given a rare glimpse into the nightmares that haunt Tony Stark's psyche, while simultaneously shown the imagery of a breathtaking artist in his prime.



# The Story...

Trapped in a sinister nightmare, Iron Man must come to terms with his inner demons and the many mistakes of his past.

It was a labyrinth of wires, computer consoles, and shadows. Slinking through the mysterious landscape, was Iron Man, clad in his new outdated silver centurian armor (1). He didn't know how long he had been on the hunt, he just knew that he had to continue. There was something out there in the darkness, and Iron Man was going to find it and kill it.

Suddenly an strange hum sounded in the distance. Iron Man leashed out towards it, firing his repulsors into the blackness (2). But nothing happened, and the hum slowly turned into laughter.

Just then, Iron Man began to realize where he was. He was in his prey's lair. He felt overcome with fear, but it was too late. The creature was standing right in front of him. Iron Man again began to fire his blasters at full power, but the creature just absorbed it all, growing longer and larger. The beast was an enigma. It was a gigantic robot husk, an elaborate tapestry of tubes and dials (3). But its face, Tony Stark recognized all too easily. Because the creature was wearing the faceplate of an Iron Man.

As their battle raged, Iron Man ferociously attacked the robotic horror with his bare hands, managing to tear its head right off its shoulders. And just like that, it was over.

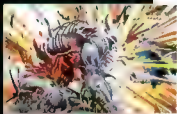
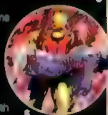
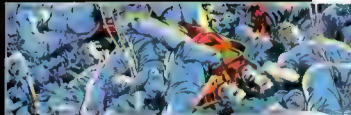
Tony could lie down for just a minute and catch his breath. But the ground below him had changed. He now found himself lying upon miles and miles of rotting corpses (4).

Through the horrific landscape, a scallier figure trudged. It was Jim Rhodes, wearing his old Iron Man armor once more (5). When Tony asked his friend where they were, Rhodes simply said that they were in a place Stark himself had made. The carnage was all Tony's fault and Rhodes was merely the outcast. With that, the landscape began to shift once more. Suddenly, Tony was standing in a bar, with Rhodes manning the counter. As Tony reluctantly ordered a vodka tonic, resigned to escaping his troubles at Rhodes's suggestion, thick cords began to appear around Tony's body. Restrained and helpless, Tony looked up once more at the creature he had been hunting. And this time, the horror was wearing his own face (6).

But Tony wouldn't give up without a fight. Channeling all his energy into one burst of his rocket boots, Stark freed himself, falling to the ground below him. But the beast was barely phased, and it was coming for him. Tony tried to run (7), but the hands of his victims shot up from the metal cords below his feet. They grabbed at Tony, impeding his escape. Tony needed to think of another way to get free.

Realizing that his attacks on the creature only made it stronger, Tony set his repulsors to absorb energy, rather than release it. And with all the strength he could still muster, Tony charged the beast, sucking its raw energy into his armor. But Tony couldn't take much more and his frame exploded (8), unable to contain all of the beast's powerful energies. And that's when Tony Stark woke up (9).

Tony was safe and secure in his plush coastal mansion. It had all been a vivid nightmare, a way for his subconscious to tell him what he already knew deep down. Yes, the Armor Wars were over. Tony had succeeded in eliminating all the known cases of stolen and pirated Stark technology. But the guilt still remained, and Tony felt haunted by all the innocents killed or injured due to his misused innovations (10). He could no longer keep fighting the guilt, or denying it—his mind was telling him to accept it as part of who he was now. And as Tony Stark looked out his bedroom window at the beautiful ocean beyond, he knew he would have to do just that. And continue the rest of his life as best he could.



"The worst bloody nightmare I've had in my life!"





# ARMOR WARS II



Tony Stark was about to become a living puppet, with a criminal mastermind pulling the strings and controlling his every move.

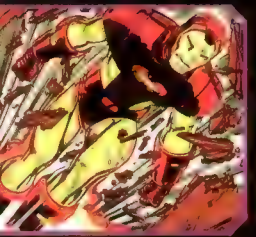
When testing out his helmet's new escape circuits, Tony was able to pilot a spare Iron Man suit into battle with him by remote control, besting a giant robot operated by Jan Shadoe.

"Your time has come, Iron Man. As you killed me, so now I claim your life!"

Titanium Man

## OUT OF THE PAST

This Titanium Man was back. Or was he? Alerted by a disturbance at his nuclear research facility, Tony wasted no time changing into his Iron Man armor and heading to the scene. As he inspected his plant, Iron Man was buried under tons of rubble. He was then confronted by an opponent who seemed to be the ghost of his old enemy from the days of the Cold War—the Titanium Man, Iron Man was forced to flee, but still managed to avert a nuclear meltdown at his factory.



## DEWITT'S PLAN

Kearson DeWitt had ruled Tony Stark for years. Considering Tony his main competitor in the world of high-tech war, DeWitt had a plan: himself with the Iron Man's backing of Desmond and his brother, Marnus, and freed of the so-called "Mandarin." Together they subverted a surgical operation that Tony Stark underwent to cure his paralyzed condition after he had been shot by a crazed ex-officer. Adding their own capacity to the microchip embedded in Tony Stark's spine, DeWitt took total control of Tony's nervous system, able to manipulate his every move. He was, in essence, confirmed by



## MANDARIN

When Tony Stark learned that he was about to lose the Mandarin, he was angry. But he was also angry at the thought of the Mandarin's "reminde the time" of the Communist China, with himself as supreme ruler. Discovering that the Mandarin's plan had been revealed by a foreigner, the Mandarin sought out the traitor Chen Hsu, a powerful old wizard. Beginning a long and with it, numerous thought out, the Mandarin realized his true mission. With his in his mind, the wizard set out for his

"Well, flesh? You have waked me from my dreamless sleep. Why?"

Fin Fang Foom



secret Chinese location of the Valley of the Sleeping Dragon. Daring to venture alone into a dark cavern, the Mandarin finally discovered what he had been doing for. In front of him lay a shimmering dragon of legend named Fin Fang Foom. With the help of an ancient scroll, the Mandarin knew the sleeping giant's weakness: the dragon's head's breath on a battalion of Chinese military. Then, with the help of Chen Hsu, the Mandarin put the dragon back to sleep, knowing the powerful creature was his to control.

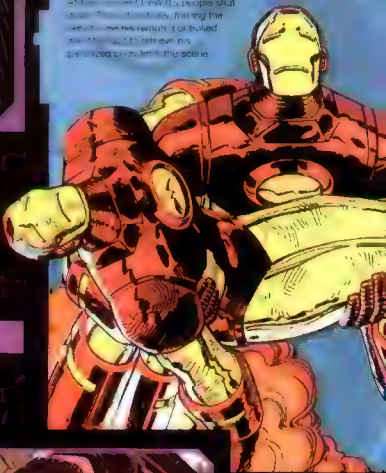
## DEWITT'S DOWNFALL

With DeWitt's people attempting to control Tony Stark's every move, he had no choice but to don his encyphered armor, piloting the suit with his mind. Despite the severe damage done to his body by overwinding his commands and sealing it in the armor, Iron Man still fought a remaining Living Laser, defeating him with the help of his old friend Wonder Man. With one villain down, Tony set his sights on DeWitt, the grand puppet master himself.



## REMOTE-CONTROL SAVIOR

When Tony Stark learned that he was about to lose the Mandarin, he was angry. But he was also angry at the thought of the Mandarin's "reminde the time" of the Communist China, with himself as supreme ruler. Discovering that the Mandarin's plan had been revealed by a foreigner, the Mandarin sought out the traitor Chen Hsu, a powerful old wizard. Beginning a long and with it, numerous thought out, the Mandarin realized his true mission. With his in his mind, the wizard set out for his



"Waiting the interlude in his sphere back to his creators, Iron Man quickly rose to the Iron Corporation..."



...There he encountered Death: rescued in his own suit of armor. Fighting the pain of surviving his body's remote command, and with a little help from Rhodes, Iron Man defeated Death—and discovered that he didn't come vengeance his company.





THE  
**1990s**

The decade of foil-embossed covers, large event story arcs, and edgy anti-heroes hit Iron Man's world, with mixed results.

It was a time for blockbusters and chart-toppers. Reinventing the wheel seemed to have become the standard, even if some wheels were performing just fine. The comics specialty market had opened up the doors for variant covers, crossovers, and tie-in trading cards, the likes of which the industry had never seen. The editors of *Iron Man* not only embraced the changes, indulging in the occasional polybag wrapper or gold foil title, but they also utilized these trends to help launch a companion comic, *War Machine*.

With years of grooming as Iron Man's replacement and a fan base all his own, Jim Rhodes split off into his own title, with an edgier, more violent outlook on life. *War Machine* became the darker counterpart to Iron Man, and a reflection of other top-selling anti-hero comics such as *Punisher*, *Lobo*, and *Wolverine*.

As crossover events like the grand scale *Infinity Gauntlet* and the *Avenger's Crossing* epic dealt with cataclysmic threats, Iron Man was killed and replaced by a younger version of himself. But before this new Iron Man could even sink in with the readers, the *Onslaught* crossover rocked the Marvel Universe and the *Iron Man* title was cancelled. The series was immediately restarted, however, featuring yet another new take on Iron Man, with a new origin and history.

It wasn't until near the end of the decade that Iron Man was restored to his former glory in yet another Earth-shattering event called *Heroes Return*. With the debut of his third ongoing series, Iron Man was returned to his roots, much to the relief of a surprised readership.



**IRON MAN** Iron Man 6000  
War Machine had an Iron Legion  
Former Iron Man against the alien  
Liaison in the Incredible Hulk  
of Iron Man's allies





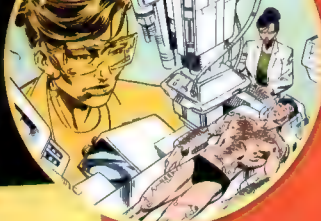
LET'S  
DO  
IT.



# DRAGON

# SEED

Tony Stark traveled to China in search of a cure for his inoperable condition only to be confronted by the Mandarin and an army of alien dragons.



## The Deal

In exchange for treatment from Dr. Yin for his body's seemingly inoperable condition, Tony was forced to offer his "bodyguard" services to the Chinese government. The Mandarin was demanding the country's subordination, and only Iron Man could stop him.

## Critical Condition

After a painful wound left Tony Stark crippled, he had undergone experimental surgery to have a makeshift prosthesis to replace his arm. However, the cure for his condition had turned out to be a deadly mistake. Tony's body was damaged beyond repair.



Employing the world's leading neurobiologist, Dr. Yin, Tony found himself at the doctor's mercy as more than one arm.

## Chen Hsu's Secret

While Jim Rhodes became Iron Man once again to fight in the place of his debilitated boss, the Mandarin used his dragons, Fin Fang Foom, to fight his battles for him. Meanwhile, the Mandarin's master Chen Hsu, was busy furthering his own plans. Chen had an astonishing secret. He wasn't a human being at all but actually an alien dragon in disguise.



## The Sleeping Dragons

As Chen Hsu gathered the fellow members of his race from all corners of the globe, Rhodes finally lost his violent battle with Fin Fang Foom. But it wasn't long before Tony Stark would join the fray. Tony, utilizing the escaphole-link that allowed him to pilot an Iron Man suit by remote control, maneuvered a suit from America and used it to attack the Mandarin.

## The Gathering

Despite the valiant effort of the Iron Man, they still proved no match for the combined might of the Mandarin and the Fin Fang Foom. But just as Tony seemingly Red, the Mandarin was greeted by several new guests: Hsu Chen's dragon army.



## Ancient History

Chen Hsu belonged to an ancient race called the dragons. A breed of this mythical beast, he and a select group had traveled to Earth in a special way, expecting to be a powerful empire to reach back to Earth. Learning to merge their dragon-like appearance into that of a human, the dragons walked back to Earth. With a population, amazing strength and power until they were ready for the event as gathering when they would regain their empire and dominate the Earth.



## Uneasy Alliance

The Mandarin would "go down within a heartbeat" to the Iron Man. But to their surprise, the help of Rhodes, Jim Rhodes, and the Iron Man army, the Mandarin was not so easily defeated. The Mandarin's master Chen Hsu, who had been hiding the dragons, was now in the Iron Man's hands. The Iron Man army, who had been hiding the dragons, was now in the Iron Man's hands.



# SAGA







## OPERATION:

# GALACTIC STORM

### THE KREE TEAM

The Avengers couldn't just stand by and watch their sun, and all life on Earth, be destroyed by the Skrull Intelligence. They divided their forces and sent peace envoys to both sides of the intergalactic conflict, while also keeping several Avengers on Earth. Iron Man, was among those chosen to visit the Kree, along with Captain America, USAgent, Crystal, Hercules, the Black Knight, and Sersi.



SERSI



THE BLACK KNIGHT



HERCULES



CRYSTAL



IRON MAN



USAGENT

**It wasn't the first war the Avengers had been caught up in, but it was one of the most devastating. And a judgement made at the war's conclusion would divide the team for years to come.**

### THE RIPPLES OF WAR

Beyond the stars, in a far-flung galaxy, there existed an empire belonging to an alien race called the Kree. The race was ruled by a living computer that was a culmination of the minds of the greatest thinkers in Kree history. Named the Supreme Intelligence, the computer eventually developed a personality of its own, as well as a lust for power. With the Supreme Intelligence in command of their every action, the Kree knew few moments of peace, and spent much of their time in combat with longtime enemies such as the shapeshifting alien race named the Skrulls.

However, it wouldn't be the Kree that dragged the Avengers into Operation: Galactic Storm. It would be their opponents, another alien empire, the Shi'ar. When the Shi'ar captured Rick Jones, an old ally of Captain America and the Avengers, they only wished to discover the location of a Kree outpost on earth. Instead, they were greeted by Captain America and an assembled team of West Coast Avengers, eager to protect their old friend. To make matters worse, during their battles with the Kree, the Shi'ar were traveling via a wormhole that was perilously close to Earth. When the rift in space was utilized, the sun was severely altered and a fire storm didn't stop soon, the traumatized star was going to explode.

### HOSTILE NEGOTIATIONS

Under a standing agreement, it stipulated that Earth's Avengers talk Giant Monsters to both form and avoid his powers. It would be a delicate negotiation, but while the Shi'ar envoy remained to talk some sense into the alien leader, Iron Man's team was left to themselves, prisoners of the Kree state. They only escaped by apprehending Kree security guards.



For his trip to the Kree Empire, Iron Man piloted the Black Knight's wreckage of his space armor.



### THE SKRULL'S PLOT

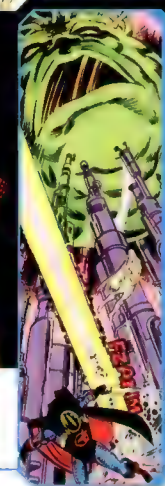
The Avengers discovered that a Shi'ar Nega Bomb had been strategically positioned to destroy the entire Kree race—a plot cooked up by the Kree's own Supreme Intelligence with help from the Skrulls. The Avengers battled the Skrulls for control of the device but, despite their best efforts, the bomb was detonated.

### SPILT DECISION

The Nega Bomb decimated the Kree Empire, just as the Supreme Intelligence had planned from the very beginning. He had manipulated events to let billions of his own people, so that the survivors evolved into a more superior race. Face-to-face with this remorseless mass murderer, Iron Man and his allies wanted to destroy the Intelligence, while Captain America and his side maintained they didn't have that right.



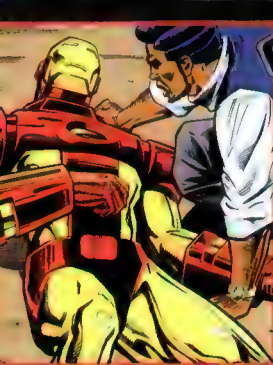
**"The Supreme Intelligence is a machine... a soulless piece of hardware... that we will destroy so that nothing like this will ever happen again." Iron Man**



### A PEACEFUL DELEGATION

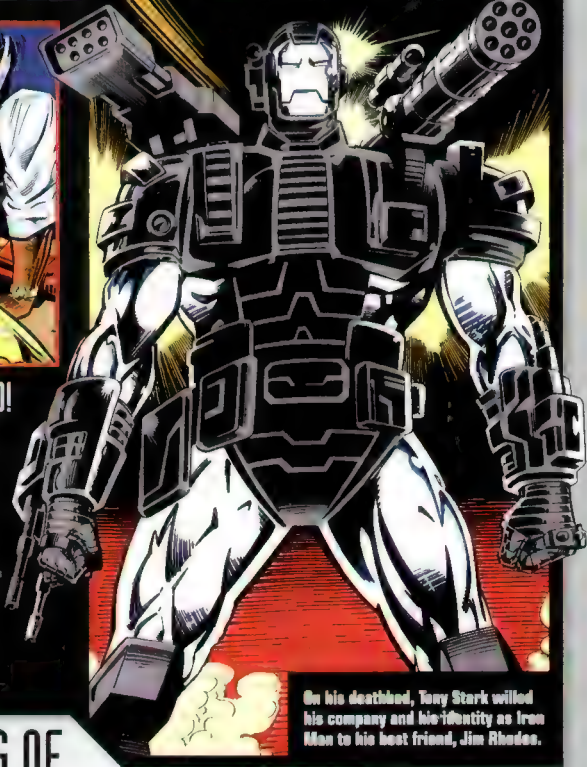
As the conflict unfolded, and the Avengers learned that the Kree Empire was a threat to Earth, the Avengers were divided. Some wanted to destroy the Kree Empire, while others wanted to negotiate. The Avengers were divided into two groups: the Avengers and the Avengers. The Avengers were divided into two groups: the Avengers and the Avengers.





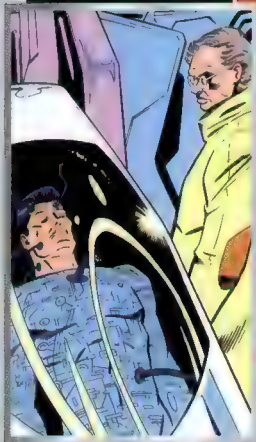
## TONY STARK IS DEAD!

When Tony Stark's crazed ex-girlfriend Kathy Dare shot him in the chest, she unleashed a seemingly endless string of medical problems that plagued Tony for months. At first crippled by the wound, Stark regained mobility in his legs when an experimental microchip was surgically implanted inside his body. However, that technology was exploited by his business rival Keaton DeWitt, who altered the biochip so that he could literally control Tony's every movement. Tony fought against DeWitt's manipulation, but in doing so, wrecked his damaged body even further. Finally, owing to Tony's continued use of his draining Iron Man armor, his body was pushed beyond repair. He slipped into a coma, and soon the news channels announced that Tony Stark was dead.



On his deathbed, Tony Stark willed his company and his identity as Iron Man to his best friend, Jim Rhodes.

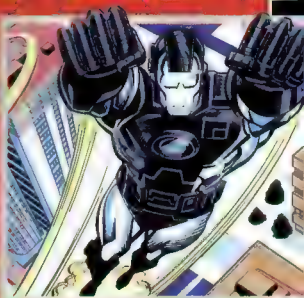
# THE COMING OF WAR MACHINE



Having recorded a CD from before his death, Tony asked Rhodes to carry on for him as Iron Man and as Stark Enterprises CEO.

## BACK IN UNIFORM

When Tony Stark died, he left behind a mess. He had a company that was on the verge of collapse, a girlfriend who was pregnant, and a best friend who was a mess. But Tony Stark was a man who knew how to get things done. He knew how to turn a crisis into an opportunity. He knew how to turn a mess into a masterpiece. And he knew how to turn a man into a hero.



Even though he was originally proved it himself, Tony developed his War Machine Iron Man armor specifically with Jim Rhodes' fighting style in mind.

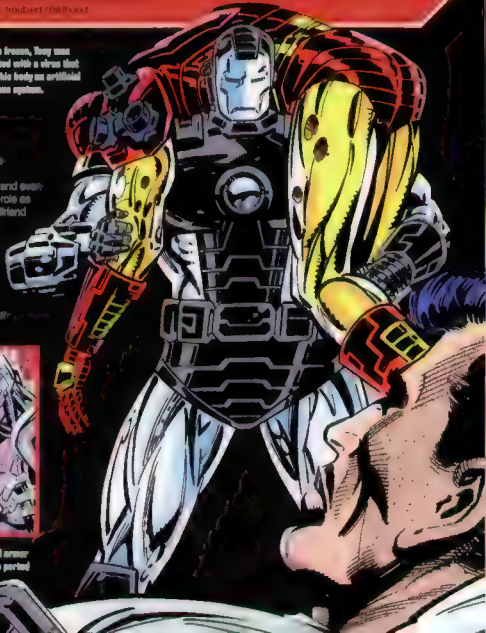
While frozen, Tony was infected with a virus that gave his body an artificial nervous system.

## THE END OF AN ERA

Once again, Rhodes was getting the hang of being the replacement Iron Man. He held his own in battles with Pimpover, the powerhouse known as Atom Smasher, and even the Living Laser. He also won over the staff in his new role as Stark Enterprises CEO and began dating Tony's ex-girlfriend Patsy Caplan. When Tony awoke from his coma, and Rhodes discovered his friend's boldface lie, Jim furiously ended his association with both Stark and his heroic legacy. Rhodes quit as CEO and as Iron Man, but kept his armor, changing his moniker to the more appropriate War Machine. Tony was left alone and temporarily paralyzed, so he did what he always did. He continued to fight, by developing a remote-controlled Iron Man armor.



War Machine fought alongside Stark's new remote-controlled armor to defend Stark Enterprises from enemies, but the two were parted ways, and Jim embarked on his bold new life.



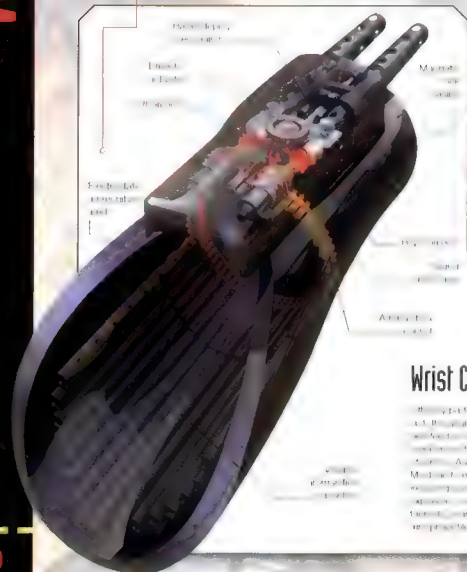






War Machine now really lives up to his name. Always a force to be reckoned with, Jim Rhodes' recent transformation into a half-human cyborg has increased his deadly potential in combat tenfold. With his body composed primarily of machinery, including rebuilt arms, legs, and spine, War Machine employs a variety of new weapons systems. But perhaps his current armor's most significant innovation is its ability to absorb mechanical devices into his own body. With the ability to instantly rebuild or upgrade himself, even in the middle of combat situations, Rhodes is virtually unkillable. Nevertheless, he frequently falls back on the trusted technology originally conceived by Tony Stark.

## main armaments



"All right, you monsters want war? you got it... South Philly style!"

## Wrist Cannon

War Machine's right arm is a masterpiece of engineering, designed to provide him with a powerful, versatile weapon. The wrist cannon is a compact, high-powered firearm that can be fired from the arm's end. It is capable of firing a variety of rounds, including armor-piercing and incendiary. The cannon is also capable of being upgraded with different ammunition, allowing War Machine to adapt to a wide range of combat situations.



## Minigun

This weapon is a fast-firing, multi-barreled machine gun that can be fired from the arm's end. It is capable of firing a variety of rounds, including armor-piercing and incendiary. The minigun is also capable of being upgraded with different ammunition, allowing War Machine to adapt to a wide range of combat situations.



## Missile Launcher

This weapon is a fast-firing, multi-barreled missile launcher that can be fired from the arm's end. It is capable of firing a variety of rounds, including armor-piercing and incendiary. The missile launcher is also capable of being upgraded with different ammunition, allowing War Machine to adapt to a wide range of combat situations.





## AVENGERS: TERMINATED

Iron Man was ready to become proactive. The world's foremost futurist read the writing on the wall and realized that in today's changing climate, the best defense was a strong offense.



## IN THE WORKS

Iron Man was ready to become proactive. The world's foremost futurist read the writing on the wall and realized that in today's changing climate, the best defense was a strong offense.



Iron man was ready to become proactive. The world's foremost futurist read the writing on the wall and realized that in today's changing climate, the best defense was a strong offense.

1. Wasp (1) - Iron Man's ally, a skilled fighter and a member of the Avengers.
2. Black Widow (2) - Iron Man's ally, a skilled fighter and a member of the Avengers.
3. Vision (3) - Iron Man's ally, a skilled fighter and a member of the Avengers.
4. Captain America (4) - Iron Man's ally, a skilled fighter and a member of the Avengers.
5. Iron Man (5) - Iron Man's ally, a skilled fighter and a member of the Avengers.



# TIMESLIDE

Tony Stark was no longer a hero. He'd become a murderer, and only one man could stop him: Tony Stark himself.



## THE CROSSING

For the first time in his life, Tony Stark was struggling to retain his sanity. And he was losing. The battle had taken him into the realm of the unknown, a dark, industrial world where the rules of physics were suspended. Tony was alone, and he was losing. The battle had taken him into the realm of the unknown, a dark, industrial world where the rules of physics were suspended. Tony was alone, and he was losing.

but an apparently invulnerable skin, in rapid succession. Tony, who'd just murdered the former invulnerable, Iron Works public relations guy, Amanda Blake, and Iron Man's then-current right hand, the indestructible fighter, Tony, then calmly walked in. He then walked back out. To the point of the Iron Man's armor, he was now in the Iron Man's armor. Tony had just killed the Iron Man's armor. Tony had just killed the Iron Man's armor. Tony had just killed the Iron Man's armor.

Tony killed the enemy Iron Man, who he discovered was nothing through a momentary portal that had formed beneath Avengers Mansion.

## IMMORTUS' PLAN

Iron Man was taken to the Iron Man's armor, which was now in the Iron Man's armor. Tony had just killed the Iron Man's armor. Tony had just killed the Iron Man's armor. Tony had just killed the Iron Man's armor.



## FALLEN FROM GRACE

Tony's corruption hadn't happened overnight. He'd lived a stressful life full of guilt and struggle, constantly battling inner demons caused by a serial childhood and an alcohol addiction. But when his college professor, Ted Slaughter, was trapped in a laboratory explosion and turned into the monstrous Sleg, a part of Tony died when he was forced to destroy his old mentor. Suddenly, his mind was ripe for King's mental manipulations, and Tony soon began spending more and more time in a new, secret base he had set up in the Arctic.



## YOUNG TONY

When the hell of a mystical portal first opened in the basement of Avengers Mansion, the Avengers presumed it had been there for years. It was a place where Tony Stark had been working on his Iron Man armor. Tony Stark had been working on his Iron Man armor. Tony Stark had been working on his Iron Man armor.



After the elder Stark's death, young Tony stayed in the present and developed his own Iron Man armor, quickly forming a friendship with Jim Rhodes.



Wearing a new suit of powerful armor that featured teleportation capabilities, Tony Stark attacked the Avengers and his younger self. While the battle raged, the younger Tony managed to equip himself with one of Iron Man's unused armors, but then realized he lacked the necessary experience to operate it.



## IRON MAN IS DEAD...

The Avengers were shocked to find the Iron Man armor in Tony Stark's armor. Tony had just killed the Iron Man's armor. Tony had just killed the Iron Man's armor. Tony had just killed the Iron Man's armor.



He was reborn in a pocket universe very different from the one he used to know. With no memories of his past life and adventures, Tony Stark was forced to discover Iron Man again, as if for the first time.

## ONSLAUGHT ATTACKS

He was the darkest halves of two of the world's most powerful mutants. A living creation of the repressed anger of the X-Men's Professor X and their old foe Magneto, Oslaught waged war on all humanity. In a desperate, last-ditch effort to stop the malign entity's rampage, the younger Iron Man, along with several other heroes, leaped into Oslaught's dream, even at the cost of their own lives.



## HEROES' REBORN

However, Iron Man did not die. None of the heroes did. In time, it turns out, the young son of the late one Doctor Strange, Mr. Fantastic, and his wife, the Invisible Woman, are the only pair of mutants who escape to lands as different from the Earth they came from, this new world had fewer heroes and villains.

In the new dimension, history had been rewritten and Tony and the others found themselves in a middle of a new, less complete world with new memories and a somewhat new appearance. Tony himself is no longer the youthful, cocky, and Oslaught's nebulous body. He was now back to his proper age, a ruthless playboy once again at the helm of Stark International.

Tony was also part of a group of brilliant friends nicknamed the Atomic Knights. Along with Rex, Richard Victor Von Doom and Tony's new best friend, Connor "Rebel" O'Kelly, Tony was a slinging war with the future family in his grasp. He was set power.

As the Atomic Knights, Tony stopped carrying out the comic book mission. From his to his, however, he brought his way out of the world and a local problem, when he found friends like Pepper Potts took some with her. In fact, Tony went so far as to make Pepper's life a little bit of a mess, but not a stuck point.

# HEROES REBORN



## THE DEATH OF REBEL

After the attack on the Helicarrier, Tony Stark was left for dead. He was found by a mysterious figure who offered him a deal: Stark could live, but he would have to work for the mysterious figure. Stark agreed, and the figure revealed himself to be the Iron Monger, a cyborg who had been created by Stark's enemies.

"I built you... somehow you and me are responsible. I'm not going to stop until I have the answers."

## IRON MAN & HULK

Seeking some hands-on training, Tony headed on his mission as a mercenary and engaged in his Battle of Britain. He stumbled across a terrorist plot in the ruined desert state of Nevada, a mission that cost a splintering of his once-rock-solid friendship with his old nemesis, the Hulk. When top scientist Bruce Banner sacrificed himself to save the world, Tony was forced to don the Iron Man armor and he was transformed into the Hulk. The Hulk's screams echoed with the Hulk's, and Tony was left with a choice: He could either stay in the Iron Man armor and but he could not stay in the Hulk.



Rebel mysteriously returned to attack Tony as a mutilated cyborg, a twisted visage of his former self.

## BIRTH OF A HERO

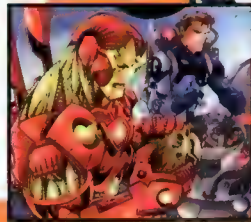
After learning the truth about the Skull Trap, Tony Stark was forced to confront the truth about his father's death. He was forced to confront the truth about his father's death, and he was forced to confront the truth about his father's death. He was forced to confront the truth about his father's death, and he was forced to confront the truth about his father's death.

When Tony returned home one evening, she was shocked to find the assassin Whirlwind in her kitchen. Hired by Hydra to murder Stark, Whirlwind was outwitted by Tony and failed miserably in his task.



# HEROES RETURN

Tony Stark had created a universe. The young hero of Mr. Fantastic and the Invisible Woman—once, arguably, one of the most powerful mutants on the planet—Franklin had created a pocket dimension outside of time, space, and causality. When the Fantastic Four, the Avengers, and the Hulk came to the rescue of the planet, they found a series of portals that they used to escape the rampaging villain. Tony was transported from his world of the moon, creation. The heroes found a new world, and a new home. Franklin realized that the original world, carrying with it a terrible fate, was the only place in the known world he had made.



## Ashema & Franklin

Hailing from a race of gods of limitless cosmic powers called the Celestials, Ashema came to Earth from her home beyond the stars to learn from the mutant "god" Franklin Richards. Her people realized that Franklin's new world was an experiment. Heroes had lived in new ways, making different choices and heading in both new directions. However, now the experiment was over. It was time to wipe the slate clean, and start afresh somewhere else. No matter how attached to his world Franklin was, it had to be destroyed. Otherwise, Ashema would have no choice but to eradicate Earth itself, the world that was home to the powerful young mutant.



The heroes had left our world for someplace different. They'd begun new lives, started over. But soon they would have no choice: if they wanted to survive, they would have to return.



When the heroes of the pocket universe met with Ashema and Franklin, they were told they would have to leave to save their real home, Earth.

## Tony & Pepper

Knowing that he would have to leave the pocket universe, Tony Stark decided to spend his last moments with his assistant, Pepper Potts. Tony knew he would never see this version of her again, and that he would soon return to a world in which he and Pepper might not be together. So before he left, Tony gave his true love one last kiss goodbye.



"WHAT OF YOU, TONY STARK? IS IT NOT GALLING TO HURL YOURSELF INTO THE UNKNOWN... WHEN YOU HAVE ALL A MAN COULD WISH FOR?"

Doctor Doom

## Breaking Through

Dr. Doom did not have to be the other-dimensional Negative Zone. He had to be the one who could break through the barriers of time and space. The Fantastic Four had previously discovered a way to travel between dimensions, and Dr. Doom had used that power to escape the Negative Zone. He had broken through the barriers of time and space, and he had broken through the barriers of the Negative Zone. He had broken through the barriers of the Negative Zone, and he had broken through the barriers of the Negative Zone.



## Doom's Ride

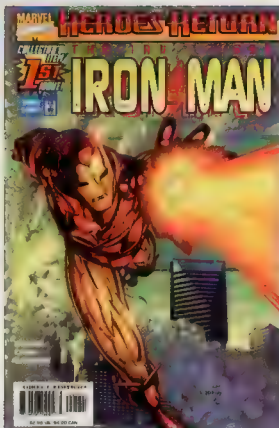
The heroes of the pocket universe were desperate to persuade Ashema to spare their world. The Celestial reluctantly agreed, but only on condition that they all return to their proper dimension. Fortunately for them, Dr. Doom happened to have a space ship equipped for that very purpose.



## Iron Man Returns

Tony Stark was getting his age again. Now back in the dimension of his birth, Tony Stark was no longer the youth that had leaped into Oblivion. In order to save humanity, Tony was back to his proper age, possessing all the memories of his long career as Iron Man, as well as those of his younger counterpart. After digging up his own, now-empty grave, Tony realized that Franklin Richards had restored him as best he could. So finally, Tony Stark was back to his old self again.



IRON MAN  
VOL.3 #1

**"You want to come after Mr. Stark—you want to hurt him, kill him, stop him from doing what he's setting out to do—you do it over Iron Man's dead body. That's all I've got to say."**

IRON MAN

**MAIN CHARACTERS:** Iron Man (Tony Stark),  
**MAIN SUPPORTING CHARACTERS:** Death Squad;  
 Georgie Avalon; Ms. Denton; Vittorio Silvani;  
 Rosalind Sharpe; Foggy Nelson; Norman Osborn;  
 Sunset Bain; Pepper Potts; Jim Rhodes  
**MAIN LOCATIONS:** Avalon Trading Co.; Stark Tower;  
 Maria Stark Community Center; Baintronics (all New  
 York); AIM hideout

## PUBLICATION DATE

February 1998

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Bob Harris

## COVER ARTIST

Sean Chen &amp; Eric Cannon

## WRITER

Kurt Busiek

## PENCILER

Sean Chen

## INKER

Eric Cannon

## COLORIST

Liquid!

## BACKGROUND

The heroes were returning, and Marvel fans couldn't be more relieved. After all, Iron Man had been through a lot lately. He had turned evil, died, been replaced by a younger version of himself, died again, and been reborn in a pocket universe as an adult version of himself. Fans were tired of the ever-shifting status quo, and when the

*Heroes Return* mini-series event catapulted Marvel's famous heroes back to their old familiar selves and realities, they welcomed them back with open arms.

Enter Kurt Busiek. Already a fan favorite writer for his groundbreaking *Marvels* mini-series and his innovative take-on super-heroes in the pages of *Thunderbolts*, Busiek set out to not only restore Iron Man to his past glory, but to also control the fate of the Avengers comic. Busiek didn't disappoint. He told consistently classic tales that paid tribute to the past, while always moving forward in new, unexpected directions. The result was a true rebirth for the Golden Avenger, worthy of a new first issue heralding his fresh start.



# The Story...

As Iron Man returns to his proper dimension and to his life as a millionaire playboy, he soon sees himself hired by old foes, and is forced to adapt and change with the times.

New York City was buzzing. Not only was Tony Stark back from the seeming dead, but so was his feebled bodyguard, the armored hero known as Iron Man (1). And as all of Manhattan wondered if Tony was going to attempt to take back his old company, now merged with the Japanese conglomerate Fujisawa Industries, Iron Man had other priorities on his mind. There was a hostage situation at the Avolon Trading Company that needed the hero's attention (2).

After dealing with the violent mercenary Vittorio Silvani and his hired help, Iron Man headed back to Stark Tower, situated in the heart of Manhattan's fashion district. After all, the evening was drawing close, and Tony Stark had quite a homecoming gala to attend (3).

With a guest list including such luminaries as the Fantastic Four's Reed Richards and Sue Storm, Dolly Bugle founder J. Jonah Jameson, and famous crusading attorney Foggy Nelson, Tony Stark spent the majority of the black tie affair shaking hands and making small talk. After turning down the advancements of the beautiful, and quite available Lesh Sheffield, Tony stood outside on Stark Tower's rooftop balcony, reminiscing about a tour of a Southeast Asia plant he went on years ago that went horribly wrong (4). He thought about the guerrilla leader Wong-Chiu, and the death of his friend Ho Yinren. But most of all, Tony thought about donning his Iron Man armor for the first time in order to escape Wong-Chiu's custody (5), and about the start of his own long-lasting war on crime that began soon after.

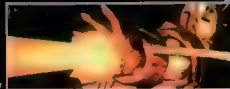
Deciding to get a bit of fresh air from a vantage point other than his ivory tower, Tony walked over to the construction site of a housing development he was spearheading through his charitable Merit Stark Foundation. As he toured the grounds, finding comfort in the bare steel and rivets surrounding him (6), Stark's musings were interrupted by gunfire. Behind him were five heavily armed assassins, calling themselves the Death Squad.

Led by the militant Firelight, and containing members Rocket-Launcher, Airborne, SmokeScreen, and Boobytrap, the Death Squad wasted no time in attacking Stark on behalf of their mysterious employer. With his trademark briefcase in hand, Tony sprinted away from the villains until he found a nice deserted hole in the ground, perfect for a quick costume change. And seconds later, the Death Squad was no longer facing a helpless millionaire playboy. Now they were up against the updated and extremely advanced technology of Iron Man (7).

As the fight raged on and Iron Man gained the upper hand, the mercenaries made their getaway with the help of SmokeScreen's blackout blast (8). And it wasn't until the villains were safely out of sight that Iron Man realized the damage the battle had cost him. True, Tony Stark was still alive, but the housing project he had worked so hard to construct was now nothing more than expensive smoking rubble. Something had to change. He'd lost too many things that truly mattered to him.

After a sleepless night spent lost in thought (9), Tony Stark called a press conference the following morning. There, to the surprise of friends and enemies, Tony announced the creation of Stark Solutions, a new company offering aid, advice or, appropriately enough, solutions, to any client willing to pay his extremely high fees. Profits would largely be turned over to the Merit Stark Foundation for reconstruction projects to help make the world a better place. And as Tony Stark turned the press conference over to questions from the audience (10), he felt he could rest easier that night. He knew there would be problems yet to face, and foes yet to fight, but at least now he knew where he was going. And for Tony Stark, that was all that mattered.

"Wide-beam, shallow-effect repulsor blasts turn the glass fragments to powder. Don't want anyone getting hurt..."



"As dawn starts to break, I make a few decisions."



# AVENGERS

140 / 141

When Morgan le Fay reared her ugly head, it was time for the return of Earth's mightiest heroes. All of them.

# ASSEMBLED



## Reunited

The Avengers' last collective attack on their common enemy, the mad scientist Doctor Doom, led to the team's demise. But when the Mad Titan Thanos invaded Earth, the Avengers were reborn. Morgan le Fay, the Wasp, and the Hulk's alter ego Bruce Banner joined the team. With the help of the Hulk's alter ego, the team was able to defeat the mad scientist. The Avengers' legacy lived on.

Vision, an artificial creation by the robotic villain Ultron, was used by the Avengers for years, developing his own personality in the process.

Captain America: the living embodiment of the American Dream, Steve Rogers lent his courage, energy shield, and moral character to the team.

Firestar: a mutant possessing microwave-based powers and a former member of the New Warriors, Angelica Jones was one of the Avengers' new recruits.

Justice: Firestar's boyfriend and fellow mutant, Vance Astroch had always dreamed of using his telekinetic powers to fight alongside his childhood heroes.

Scarlet Witch: the daughter of the notorious mutant Magneto with unique "hex powers," the Scarlet Witch found a new family in the Avengers years ago.

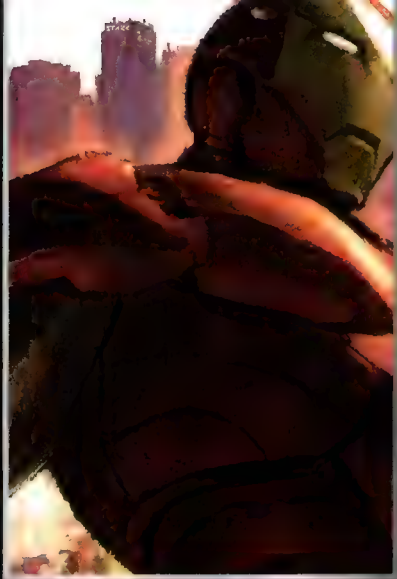
Thor: the Norse god of Thunder, Thor fought his way back from the dimensional void to rejoin his friends at the dangers that faced them.

Iron Man: joining as an active member, Tony Stark once again took his place in the elite inner circle of the Avengers' founders.









**2000s**

**AND ON...**

Having walked a hard road, Iron Man now flew to new heights of popularity and became the center of attention in the Marvel Universe.

Iron Man was thriving in his new environment: the book store. With newstand comics nearly a thing of the past, Marvel had largely switched its format to six-issue arcs that could be easily collected into trade paperback form. This approach seemed tailor-made for Iron Man, and the character soon appeared in a few miniseries of his own.

It wasn't long before Tony Stark was attracting top talent in the industry. Luminaries Warren Ellis and Adi Granov relaunched Iron Man's title with a new first issue and revamped origin. Writer Brian Michael Bendis placed Tony in the New Avengers and then at the helm of the Mighty Avengers and the Initiative. Ed Brubaker granted Tony a recurring role in his death of Captain America saga. With the added push of Jon Favreau's 2008 blockbuster *Iron Man* film, starring Robert Downey Jr. as Tony Stark, Iron Man had become one of the most important characters in the Marvel Universe. Iron Man was at the heart of every major event, and continued to star in several miniseries, including Joe Casey's *Enter the Mandarin* and *Inevitable* limited series.

Iron Man would see his title rebooted for the fifth time, this time to spotlight popular new writer Matt Fraction. As the comic became a bestseller, the character of War Machine was given another chance at his own ongoing series. With the release of a new animated series in 2009 and a sequel film in 2010, the future looked brighter than ever for Iron Man and his compelling, endlessly fascinating world.



**OVERLAP** *Inevitable* Iron Man Vol. 3 #7: Artist Adi Granov helped establish Iron Man's modern look with his popular covers, including this gory Iron "The Best Defense" storyline.







Although he started his career as a weapons manufacturer with thousands of lives on his conscience, Ray took campaign for the United States Secretary of Defense position, proposing a revolutionary, non-lethal approach to war.

## Mr. Stark Goes to Washington

[illegible]

# SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

**Tony Stark knew he couldn't beat the government, so he opted to join them, using all his power and influence to gain the nomination of Secretary of Defense.**



For all his legal shenanigans, Berkov looked pitiable. Berkov conducted trial after dangerous trial of Star's latest technology, winning the Secretary of Defense job as easily as Tony himself.

When overseeing the creation of a new experimental spy plane, Burch watched as the aircraft flew off course and collided with an army transport plane. As Iron Man saved the endangered craft, securing his bid to the Defense seat, Burch took his own life rather than face the repercussions of his actions.

# Titanium Man

While utilizing his new hypergravity armor to compensate for the extreme pressure during an experimental space flight, Iron Man attempted to destroy a rogue comet that was on a collision course with Earth. But first he had to combat the renegade communist threat of the Titanium Men.

## VITRIOL

## THE END OF SEC. BURCH

When government officials learned they had found Alvin in hiding, multiple searches by his father during the Civil War and hunted in a secret lab at Alvin's old home, Annapolis Memorial, but then ended up in a hidden room in the basement of the building. However, when the robot was accidentally activated, from that and the Annapolis were destroyed in a nuclear explosion. Alvin is a very public figure, as he is the only one of his kind in the world.

**ARSENAL ALPHA**



Maniacal despots, time-traveling bandits, world-conquering alien tyrants—the Avengers had survived them all. But when a teammate turned against them, the Avengers discovered an enemy that they might not all walk away from.



After spying the Latvian Ambassador in attendance at a UN assembly, Stark began to lash out at the official, and his corrupt country.

**"Let's all take a vote RIGHT NOW to just wipe your country off the map already and build an amusement park out of the whole thing and call it a day."**

## Outburst at the UN

Tony Stark was perhaps the most widely trusted member of the Avengers. In his position as the US Secretary of Defense, he was the natural choice to speak at a peace conference at the United Nations. But suddenly, he found himself unable to contain his temper while addressing the Latvian Ambassador and ended his rant by storming out of the assembly in a huff. The outburst seemed totally out of character; nevertheless, Tony recognized the way he was feeling. He felt as if he were drunk. Yet he hadn't had a drop of alcohol in years...

## Meanwhile at the Mansion ...

The Avengers believed their evil team mate Ultron was dead. He wasn't. When, little more than an awakening corpse, he staggered through the gates of Avengers Mansion. Moments later their suspicions fell in horror, as Ultron's heart exploded. This bad-kid Ant-Man (Scott Lang) and demoted the mansion (but the assembly the legions of).



Hank was the next to fall when an armada of alien spaceships filled the city. Then an army of robots past and present appeared.

## UNDER ATTACK?



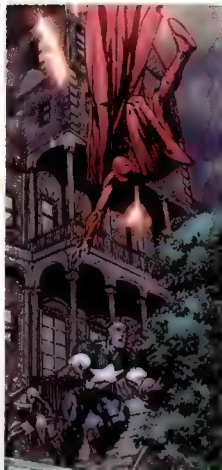
An Captain America arrived at the dimensional summit, he was alerted by the Helms leading an attack of Ultron's robots against his former friends. In the confusion, the Helms lost control while fighting the Helms, and Hawkeye ripped her old robot helmet in half. At this moment, the Helms was in a subconscious state, and was in a subconscious state.



## Hex Magic

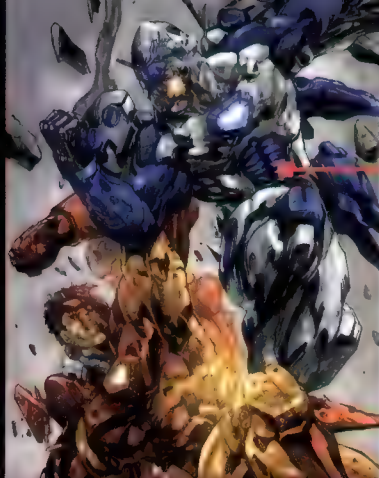
Dr. Strange, the world's greatest sorcerer, figured it out fast. All these seemingly random events had the same origin: they had been caused by the magical hex powers of an invisible Avenger: the Scarlet Witch. After years of emotional trauma, Wanda Maximoff had finally lost control of her sanity, and was lashing out at the Avengers.

Luckily for the Avengers, Dr. Strange's knowledge of magic knew no rival, and he was able to defeat Wanda by taking away what little remained of her fragile mind.





Her tortured mind shattered beyond repair. Wanda Maximoff, the Scarlet Witch, decided to use her hex powers to remodel existence in her own image. No longer were mutants the despised minority; they were now the overwhelming majority.



In a world where humans fought in an arena for the enjoyment of the mutant population, there was one father phenomenon: Tony Stark.



### Father and Son

When Tony Stark emerged from the wreckage that erupted when his mansion was destroyed, he was a broken man. He was still a genius, but he was also a man who had lost everything. He was still a man, but he was also a man who had lost his humanity. He was still a man, but he was also a man who had lost his soul. He was still a man, but he was also a man who had lost his life.

## THE RESISTANCE

Howard Stark had been wrong. Miss murder could never be an acceptable answer. But deep down in his soul, Tony still knew that something about this world was seriously out of kilter. A major wrong needed to be put right... Then the mutant Layla Miller and a band of fearless heroes paid him a visit in his hometown of Chicago to restore his memories to what they were before the Scarlet Witch altered them. Tony immediately joined their underground resistance, which had the sole aim of bringing the tyranny of the House of Magneto to an end.



It was time to take the fight directly to Magneto's front door, the island nation of Genosha.



The House of M's royal court consisted of Sebastian, the Scarlet Witch and her two sons, Morgan, and his other daughter Polaris.

## THE GREAT HUMAN HOPE

Tony Stark was living the dream in the Scarlet Witch's House of M world. His father was still alive, he was a successful businessman, and he was adored and envied by millions in the sports arena. But at heart, he was still the same hero who had struggled against oppression and combating odds for his entire life. So when his old friend Henry Fym went missing while running

controversial experiments on the mutant genome, Tony donated his most recent Iron Man suit and headed out to find his trusted Stark Industries employee. After doing battle with a fleet of human-hunting giant mutant robots led by his own father, Tony teamed up with fellow robot fighter Johnny Storm and attacked a human holding facility to free Fym.



The Scarlet Witch was responsible for the creation of the parallel reality where Iron Superior ruled and many of her father Avengers' old allies and enemies lived.

### "No More Mutants"

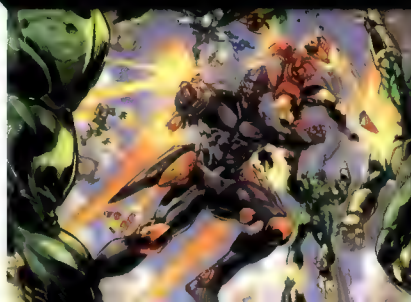
As the heroes invaded Genosha on the back of a programmed sentinel robot, they unlocked Magneto's mind so that he, too, remembered the way the world should be. Enraged to discover that his son Quicksilver had influenced the Scarlet Witch's thinking and had helped her to create the World of M, Magneto attacked his own son, forcing the Scarlet Witch into action. Seeing the damage her people had caused, Wanda Maximoff restored the world to normal, dramatically reducing the number of powered mutants.

Iron Man fought alongside Quicksilver, Cyclops and other heroes in an attempt to bring down the House of M and restore their reality.



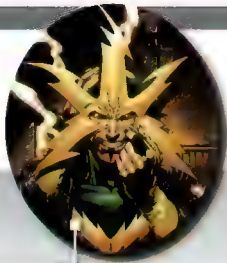
## Mutants and Madmen

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M

HOUSE OF



## ELECTRO

When Spider-Man's Miles O'Brien look-alike is the costumed villain Electro is hired to take out the South in New York City's maximum security prison as the Rikers Island inmate rearing his fangs would only succeed the world's greatest Super Hero. Electro was only hired to send one govt. in to reveal the incarcerated villain's superpowers. Electro's power is the power of the sun. Electro was to come in to challenge the inmate was to bring together the New York City Avengers.

**"We'll find out who our enemies are. We'll find who did this. And then we'll avenge it."** IRON MAN

# THE NEW AVENGERS

While visiting a prisoner at Ryker's Island's Raft Installation, crusading lawyer Matthew Murdock, his escorting SHIELD agent and former Spider-Woman Jessica Drew, and his bodyguard Luke Cage found themselves in the fight of their lives. When the facility's power suddenly shut off, the deadliest super-powered prisoners New York City had to offer were freed.



## BREAKOUT

Joined by Spider-Man, Iron Man and Captain America's well-known former imprisoned powerhouses, the Sentry, the inmates managed to avoid the riot, though not before 10 prisoners were killed. The escapee's mission didn't have the best result by any means, but it inspired Captain America, making him realize the need for a team of super-powered crime fighters.

Captain America's secret to recruit those that had hoped deal with the prison breakout. With Iron Man, Iron Man's Spider-Woman, Spider-Man and Luke Cage, this organization of New Avengers set up a headquarters in the top three floors of Manhattan's Stark Tower skyscraper, and soon added Wolverine the Sentry, and the mysterious mutant Nitro to their ranks.



An opportunist by nature, Electro made sure that the Raft prisoners knew that they owed him a favor.



## SENTRY'S STORY

## WORLD CLASS

[illegible]

## MEMBERS

- 1 **BORN FREE**  
Real Name: Tony Shalhoub
- 2 **SHANE** aka Shane  
Real Name: Maya Lopez
- 3 **SUPERNATURAL**  
Real Name: Jonathan Demme
- 4 **LIKE GALT**  
Formerly known as Power Man
- 5 **SUPERN-MAN**  
Real Name: Peter Parker
- 6 **WOLFWINE** aka Logan  
Real Name: James Van Der Beek
- 7 **CAPTAIN AMERICA**  
Real Name: Steve Rogers







Soon after recruiting his teenage allies in the Young Avengers, Iron Lad revealed his double identity to Captain America, Iron Man and *Daily Bugle* employee Jessica Jones. From his past trauma of being the target of schoolyard bullies, to his time traveling adventures with his future self, Kang, Iron Lad divulged his entire life story to the heroes.



**They appeared out of nowhere. A group of teenage heroes bearing striking resemblances to familiar icons. Although their heroism was immediately obvious, the origins of these Young Avengers were shrouded in mystery.**

## Back in the Past



Despite being beaten by the Rangers time and time again, Kang was still a seriously powerful threat.



## Hang's Spy

Soon after the Young Avengers introduced themselves to their older counterparts, they were attacked by the Greening Man, an old foe of the Avengers and Thor. After being subdued by the heroes, the Greening Man disappeared, sending a message to his master Kang to let him know that he'd invaded Iron Land.

## The Death and Birth of Hang

With Kang lying dead at his feet, Iron Lad was shocked to see his friends beginning to disappear from reality, one by one. By refusing to travel forward in time to his proper place in the timestream, Iron Lad had dramatically changed the present. Realizing that he had to set things right, Iron Lad kissed his sweetheart Cassie Lang goodbye and headed back to the future to fulfill his heroic destiny.



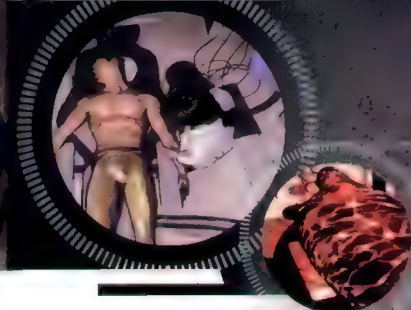
When Kang returned to the present to help his younger self, the Young Avengers stood against him, united despite having to remove the Avengers' protective custody.

## YOUNG AVENGERS

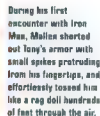
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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

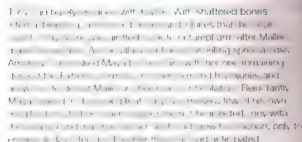
Mallen had a tragic past. As a child, he watched helplessly as his mother and father were gunned down during a standoff with police.



**THE NEW IRON MAN**  
With the latest Iron Man action  
movie, you can now don the  
Iron Man armor and  
take on the world's most  
villainous. In Iron Man 3,  
a will-to-survive struggle through  
the capricious of bad luck, and  
mad genius, the odds will be  
in your favor. It was the Iron  
Man, and he's still.

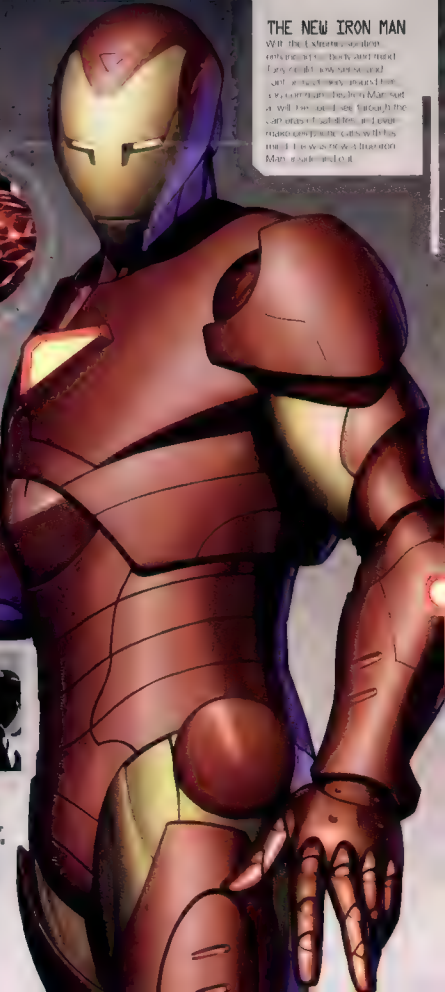
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In the first stage of the Extremis transformation, Mellen's body was essentially reduced to a giant open wound. Encased in layers of scabs, Mellen's organs were rebuilt from the inside out, making him an extremely dangerous super-being.



1. The first step is to identify the main topic of the document. This is often found in the title or the first few paragraphs.

Despite working her way up to upgrade his armor, Tony was later forced to arrest Mayday when he discovered that she had leaked Extremis on purpose.



KEY ISSUE



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**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Joe Quesada

**COVER ARTIST**

Adi Granov

**WRITER**

Warren Ellis

**ARTIST**

Adi Granov

**COLORIST**

Adi Granov

**LETTERER**

Randy Gentile

# IRON MAN

## Vol. 4 # 5

**"Maya, I can see through satellites now."**

IRON MAN

**MAIN CHARACTERS:** Iron Man (Tony Stark); Ho Yinsen; Maya Hansen

**SUPPORTING CHARACTERS:** Various terrorists under Wong-Chu's employ

**LOCATIONS:** Wong-Chu's insurgent camp, presumably Afghanistan; Maya Hansen's laboratory at Futurepharm, Austin, Texas

## BACKGROUND

It was time for Iron Man to get a boost. A major Marvel writer of the 1990s, Warren Ellis had taken a brief respite from mainstream heroes to explore uncharted waters on various successful titles, including Vertigo Comics' *Transmetropolitan* and Wildstorm's *The Authority*. After amassing much critical acclaim, Ellis was triumphantly returning to the comic mainstream with projects like the highly popular *Ultimate Fantastic Four*. Soon, Ellis was tapped to relaunch Iron Man into a fourth series.

Already praised for his distinctive covers for the end of Iron Man's third series, Adi Granov was looking for a new project. He jumped at the chance of drawing six Iron Man issues alongside Ellis. The collaboration brought about not only a best-selling graphic novel, when the issues were collected, but also a startling reinvention of the character, evolving Iron Man to the next level as both man and machine.



158-159



# The Story...

As Tony Stark's body lies helpless on Maya Hansen's operating table, undergoing the Extremis procedure, he vividly flashes back to his first time in an Iron Man suit.

Iron Man needed an upgrade, or he wouldn't survive the night (1). That music was clear to Tony Stark as he lay there on Maya Hansen's operating table in the heart of Futuropharm labs. Maya's experimental super-soldier serum known as Extremis had been stolen from the company, and a man known only as Mollen had injected himself with it. Tony had tracked down the vicious criminal only to receive a severe beating that had badly injured his body inside his Iron Man armor. He'd managed to make it to Maya's doorstep, and even flirted with her computer system a bit, but that took all the life that was left in him. So Maya reluctantly did as he told her. She injected him with the last remaining sample of the Extremis formula, sending Tony's body into a series of convulsions before ceasing all movement. As Maya waited for a sign that Tony had survived the injection, Tony slept. And dreamed. And remembered...

The location was Afghanistan. While on a consultation mission with the US Army, Tony Stark and his military escorts were caught in a vicious attack by insurgent rebels. A stray bullet hit one of Stark Industries' own landmines, knocking Tony unconscious. When he finally regained his senses (2), he found himself in a shabby room with an array of technology stacked in the corner (3) and an elderly Asian man looking down at him. The man was Ho Yinsen (4), a brilliant medical innovator, who had been captured by the terrorists and put to work against his will. Tony knew the man's work quite well. He'd even attended a lecture of his once, although he was a bit drunk at the time.

Yinsen explained the current situation. Tony had shrapnel stuck in his chest and was probably going to die within the week. In that time he was expected to create a weapon for the terrorists, however absurd that sounded. Determined to survive, Tony remembered Yinsen's lecture from that night so many years ago. It was about magnetic wound excision. He also recalled the subject of his own speech at that same conference. It was about an exoskeleton suit of armor that he planned to call the Iron Man. Now, Tony was going to build a prototype Iron Man suit, and Yinsen was going to add his magnetic technology into the chest plate.

Meanwhile, back in the present on the operating table, a strange black cocoon had formed around Tony's body. And Maya waited.

Back in Tony's memories, he and Yinsen built their suit of armor, and it worked just like Tony thought it would (5). He easily escaped, killing the very terrorist soldiers who had kidnapped him. And just like that, Iron Man was born.

Maya had been waiting for an hour when the energy shot out of Tony's chest (6). It was a red, uncoupled beam, that cracked the cocoon like lava burning through hardened magma. As the cocoon broke away, Tony sat up. He was alive, and filled with more energy than ever before.

The Extremis serum had rebuilt him. It had regrown his organs and mended his crushed bones. The problem was, according to Maya's calculations, it shouldn't have worked so quickly. But in the time before he passed out, Tony had made his own modifications to the Extremis solution. Now, his crucial underheath, the golden layer of electronics under his armor (7), was stored in his hollow bones, and formed around his skin as it poured out of his pores on his mental command. He could send electronic signals with his brain, even make telephone calls without saying a word out loud. Even better, he could communicate with machinery remotely (8), like the compressed outer Iron Man armor he kept in his transmuted briefcase.

Tony Stark was now a new man. A true Iron Man. And he was ready to take the fight back to Mollen.



"This either saves you or kills you."





# ILLUMINATI

**Brought together by a conscious resolve to make the world a better place, the Illuminati were a secret band of brothers, each a hero in his own right, representing the best of man and mutantkind. They formed to prevent an invasion. And they would die when an invasion occurred...**

When Illuminati were a group of heroes gathered together by Iron Man in order to keep the lines of communication open between the world's superhero communities. Conspiring Iron Man, the Illuminati king Black Bolt, the mutant rights activist and leader of the X-Men Professor X, Nemoor the Sub-Mariner and King of Atlantis, the Savage, the world's strongest superhero, and the Fantastic Four's Mr. Fantastic, the Illuminati was a team that served as a check-and-balance force between the world's greatest super heroes.

The organization was founded after the Kree/Skrull War. At the time, two alien races on a scale so massive it was unheard of, the war shook the Avengers' world, and opened Iron Man's eyes to the dangers facing the Earth. They realized that if there had been greater communication between the Earth's super-powered groups, they would have detected the seeds of war much earlier, and preventative measures could have been taken.

The Iron Man assembled the Illuminati, and also invited the king of Wakanda and former Avenger Black Panther to join its ranks. With the war of the Illuminati ended, that Iron Man might be on to something and enlisted his help. Black Panther opposed the notion, for he felt that there would be too much at stake if the group disagreed, and he wanted no part in their self-proclaimed role as protectors of Earth. Black Panther left the meeting and the others moved on to their first new center of business.

It wasn't long before the Illuminati made enemies among the shape-shifting alien Skrulls. After decimating a warship that resembled the Skrull's King, who had refused to listen to reason, the heroes were ambushed and taken prisoner. Although they eventually escaped, the Skrulls had imprisoned on them, and discovered their powers. The Skrulls wanted to join their community.



## ILLUMINATI ACTS

The Illuminati convened in times of crisis, acting only when they felt the situation was too dire to ignore.

### THE HULK EXILED

When the Hulk's latest destructive outbreak resulted in a death count of 26 people, Iron Man could no longer overlook the unacceptable actions of his friend Bruce Banner's alter ego. Seeking the keys to the creation of the Illuminati, Iron Man was surprised to encounter fierce opposition from Nemoor, the Savage, and the others vowed to exile the Hulk into outer space, and once a deserted planet where the Hulk could finally find peace, Nemoor attacked Iron Man until the sea king was assisted by Dr. Strange. The war was when and Hulk was sentenced to be sent into the void.

The Illuminati an almost elderly Hulk to meet a monster that was to be a great deal less than Hulk. However, the ship happened to pass through a wormhole, and Hulk was sent to a war-torn planet instead of the peaceful the Illuminati had intended. Thus a series of events were set in motion that culminated in the ultimate conflict known as World War Hulk.

### THE INFINITY GAUNTLET

Containing six all-powerful gems that each controlled a different cosmic power, the Infinity Gauntlet granted its wielder control of all of space, matter, and time. Determined that the gems should not fall into the wrong hands, the Illuminati set out to locate them. After revealing the gauntlet to find the stones, each one of the Illuminati became a guardian of a particular gem, to ensure they would never be abused.



The Illuminati each became a guardian of the Infinity gems that controlled reality, the mind, powers, space, the soul, and time.

### THE BREAKUP

The US government was intent on passing the Superhero Registration Act that would force all powered individuals to register their abilities with them. Iron Man brought the proposed legislation up with Illuminati, insisting that the members back the act. He was immediately met with opposition from Dr. Strange and Nemoor. Both members resigned from the group, and it remained the Illuminati were finished the quest.

Iron Man called upon the Illuminati one last time to show the resistance of a coming Skrull invasion. Once Black Bolt had revealed himself to be a Skrull sleeper agent, the Illuminati were their opponents, not knowing whom to trust, and haunted by the realization that their actions years ago had triggered the Skrulls to attack Earth in a desperate move that came to be known as the Skrull Invasion.



# CIVIL WAR

## STAMFORD

It was one of the worst disasters in human history. When a youthful team of crime fighters called the New Warriors were locked in combat with a group of villains, the ruthless Nitro set off an explosive charge that devastated the town of Stamford, Connecticut, killing more than 600 people. The nation blamed all Super-Heroes, and Congress passed the Superhuman Registration Act.

**It was brother against brother. Friend against friend. The Super Hero Civil War created a rift in the superhuman community that might never heal.**

It was the law. Super Heroes, or anyone possessing enhanced abilities for that matter, had to register their powers with the government. Their secret identities would now be a matter of record. Their crime-fighting careers would be regulated, with paid vacations and sick days, just like any other job. Super Heroes were now civil servants. Anyone operating outside of those parameters would be arrested and locked in an extra-dimensional prison developed by Mr. Fantastic himself in the fabled Negative Zone. There was a definite line drawn in the sand, and it came as no surprise to anyone that Captain America was the first to cross it.

To Captain America, trading in personal freedoms for a government promise of security was totally unacceptable. He was convinced that registering their identities would be like painting targets on the innocent families and friends of some Super Heroes. After all, a hero's life is fraught with peril, and the last thing he or she would want to do would be to bring that danger home at night. So Cap organized his own underground rebellion against the Registration Act and many heroes flocked to him.



## THE RIGHT THING?

Tony Stark wouldn't get a good night's sleep for quite some time. In his heart he knew that regulating the heroes was a necessary step in this day and age. He knew training them and preparing them for a life of fighting crime was a good thing. But he was hunting down his best friends. And he knew no good could come of that.

162-163



REGISTRATION  
ACT BECOMES  
LAW

SONY

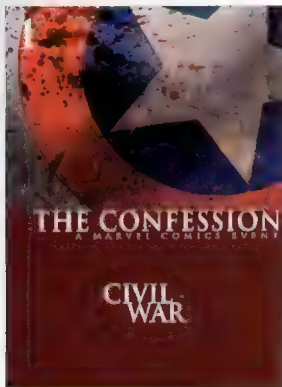
REGISTRATION ACT BECOMES LAW



## AMERICA'S SACRIFICE

A war was being waged. Lives were being lost. On both sides, ugly decisions were being made. Soon Iron Man and Captain America met face-to-face on the streets of New York City. After the Vision took Tony by surprise and short-circuited his armor, Cap beat his old friend within an inch of his life. A group of rescue workers tore the Captain off Tony's nearly lifeless body, providing the reality check Captain America needed. He looked around and saw the destruction the war had caused his city and he knew that this wasn't the way. Captain America surrendered and ordered his people to stand down. And just like that, the war was over.





## PUBLICATION DATE

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## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Joe Quesada

## WRITER

Brian Michael Bendis

## 3-D IRON MAN DESIGN

Alex Maleev

## PENCILLER

Alex Maleev

## INKER

Alex Maleev

## COLORIST

Jose Villarrubia

# CIVIL WAR: THE CONFESSION

## #1

**"I—I came here to tell you *why* all this happened. You asked me and I'm going to tell you. It was because of King Arthur."**

IRON MAN

**MAIN CHARACTERS:** Iron Man, Captain America

**SUPPORTING CHARACTERS:** SHIELD agents, King Arthur and knights, zombies, Dr. Doom, Mr. Fantastic, Magneto, Green Goblin, Spider-Man, Thor, Kingpin, Nick Fury and other heroes

**LOCATIONS:** SHIELD Helicarrier; Camelot; Stark's lab; the Raft prison

## BACKGROUND

Writer Mark Millar rocked the Marvel Universe with his seven-issue mini-series *Civil War*, which forced nearly every hero and villain to choose between Iron Man's pro-registration side and Captain America's underground forces. However, fans in the real world wondered why Iron Man made the decision he did. With a long history of clashing with the U.S. government, what would make Tony Stark commit himself so fully to the cause of Super Hero registration? There was no better writer to explain Tony's stance than Brian Michael Bendis. Known for his real-studio and character insights, which have helped to make *Ultimate Spider-Man* and *Daredevil* such successes, Bendis partnered with his longtime *Daredevil* artist Alex Maleev to relate two poignant conversations between the generals of each side of the Civil War. Born out of these revealing exchanges was a one-shot tie-in special that shed light on the messy ramifications of a war between friends.



## The Story...

With the Civil War finally over, Iron Man and Captain America share their solemn with each other in the face of devastating tragedy.

The skies were appropriately cloudy as Iron Man flew to the SHIELD Helicarrier hovering over Washington DC's famous Arlington Cemetery (1). Arriving on Basement Sub-Level 7 of the massive floating fortress, Iron Man continued past the veiled faces of his SHIELD subordinates. Although each soldier paid him the professional respect he demanded as Director of the SHIELD global peacekeeping force, Iron Man could sense where their true loyalties rested. They were still the soldiers of SHIELD's former Director, Nick Fury, and to them, Iron Man was an intruder within their proud organization.

Tony Stark soon found the man he was looking for: his old friend and current enemy, Steve Rogers, the flag-wearing loon known to the world as Captain America. As Tony sat down across from his old friend, he took his helmet off (2) and began to bare his soul. Earlier, Captain America had asked Tony why all this—the Civil War between the heroes—why it all began... and Tony thought it was finally time to tell him.

Years ago, when Iron Man had battled Dr. Doom in a time-spanning mission that cast the two foes back into the days of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table (3), Tony had seen a vision while locked in combat on the field of battle. There amid the blood and the violence, he'd seen his own future. Heroes were fighting heroes (4). Allies were battling each other in a bloody conflict with no clear-cut victor. This image, however brief, stayed with Tony and, upon his return to his proper time, helped him decide to form the Illuminati, a gathering of the leaders of various Super-Hero teams. If this disaster was coming in the future, he would do his best to see to it that it never happened.

Despite his best intentions, Tony began to see the seeds of war all around him. When Nick Fury leaked a copy of the Superhuman Registration Act to him (5), Tony could see a line already forming in the sand. He was a futurist after all. It was what he did for a living. He already knew which side his various friends would choose, and he knew that he had to take a stand. Because if he didn't organize the legal side of things, then who would? After all, heroes had to work with the law, and to work against it was nothing short of arrogant.

As Tony sat there, bearing his soul to his old friend, tears formed in his eyes (6). Because recently, Captain America had asked Iron Man if it was worth it. If Tony's stance was worth all the death and destruction that had resulted from brother fighting brother. And as he now looked at the man he'd been talking to all this time, the corpse of Captain America laid out on a cold metal slab in front of him (7), Iron Man knew that he had been wrong. It hadn't been worth it at all.

Before his death, Captain America had been flown to the Raft, the maximum-maximum security penitentiary on Ryker's Island. After being transferred to his cell, Steve Rogers was paid a visit by his captor himself, Iron Man (8). What followed wasn't the friendliest conversation. Captain America accused Iron Man of being sick with power, and Iron Man accused Captain America of being an old man who didn't understand the times he was living in. But Steve Rogers was certain. Despite Iron Man's victory on the battlefield, Stark had lost the fight before it had started. He'd sold his principles and the cause of freedom. So Captain America asked his old friend one last question. He asked him if all of it had been worth it.

Iron Man didn't answer. He just called Rogers a sore loser, and walked away, leaving the living symbol of freedom to sit quietly, alone and behind bars (9).



"Was it worth it? Tell me!"



Possessing a scientific mind, Peter Parker is always drawn to technology exhibits, despite having gained his powers at age fifteen after by a radioactive spider.

## Radioactive Man

While attending a New York electronics expo, Tony Stark and Peter Parker felt a chill when walking by the Stern International booth. For Peter, it was his trademark spider-sense warning him of danger. For Tony, it was the lingering memories of his arch-enemy Doctor Doom and the damage the ruthless mogul had inflicted on his personal life. However different their origins, both men's instincts proved correct. The mouthpiece for Stern International's presence at the show was none other than Chen Lu, secretly the Radioactive Man, a threat from both heroes' pasts. And when Spider-Man returned to the expo at night, the Radioactive Man showed the wall-crawler exactly how much of a threat he truly was.



As the Radioactive Man experimented on a captive Spider-Man, Iron Man barged in on the scene and freed his fellow hero. With Spidey dead in a radiation suit, the duo must also strive to restore their poisonous adversary.

**"What—Spider Man in a radiation suit? ...Ingenious!"**

# IRON MAN and SPIDER-MAN

## KEY DATA

**REAL NAME** Peter Benjamin Parker

**SHOWBIZ** Producer/photographer; former science teacher; scientist

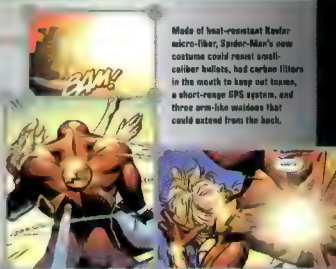
**APPEARANCES** Iron Avengers, Secret Avengers, New Fantastic Four

**PERSONAL/HEROIC** Superhuman strength, reflexes, equilibrium, endurance, and flexibility. Accelerated healing factor. Ability to adhere to flat surfaces. Unusually anti-sensory spider-sense. Crawling web-shooters and sticky, dissolving web fluid吐射器. Senses level intellect.



## The Iron Spider

Years later, after both "Spider-Man" and Iron Man armor melded with the New Avengers, Tony took Peter under his wing as his protégé. Not only did it allow Peter and his family to have an Avengers "lower" but his own (imagined) Asgardian super-species created for Spider-Man's abilities. The new Iron Spider suit allowed Peter to scale great distances, find out in less pulse and emergency situations, as well as reward and punish those who misbehave.



Made of heat-resistant Kevlar micro-fiber, Spider-Man's new costume could resist even caliber bullets, had carbon fibers in the mouth to keep out toxins, a short-range GPS system, and three arm-like weapons that could extend from the back.

Peter's Iron Spider suit also possessed chameleon abilities, allowing him to change his appearance to his classic costume, or even street clothes.



Tony warned Peter of the proposed Superhuman Registration Act and Peter agreed to stand by him.

## To Washington

Tony Stark wasn't the only one with a mission. After he'd helped Peter through his... needed his help. Tony and Peter to work for him as a consultant in civilian life, and invited his young friend that the two of them were a team he needed in Washington D.C. Congress was preparing to pass the Superhuman Registration Act, a law requiring Super Heroes to register their powers and abilities with the U.S. government. Concerned that the Act was too heavy and risky to become law, Stark reluctantly became a spokesman for it. Tony knew that Spider-Man, who represented the civilian right to privacy, the Super Hero community, came out in support of the Act. Many other superhero individuals would agree to sign up and the chance of violence in the streets would be significantly reduced.



Tony Stark did his best to talk the government out of their proposed Superhuman Registration Act. He even went so far as to stage an attack on his life by the Titanium Man, one Peter valiantly saved him from.

## Civil War

After a year, the government's Iron War had begun. The Superhuman Registration Act, which required all Super Heroes to register their powers and abilities with the U.S. government, was being debated in Congress. Tony Stark, who represented the civilian right to privacy, the Super Hero community, came out in support of the Act. Many other superhero individuals would agree to sign up and the chance of violence in the streets would be significantly reduced.

## Friends Again?

With the government and Iron Man's ability to track and monitor the Super Heroes, the Superhuman Registration Act, which required all Super Heroes to register their powers and abilities with the U.S. government, was being debated in Congress. Tony Stark, who represented the civilian right to privacy, the Super Hero community, came out in support of the Act. Many other superhero individuals would agree to sign up and the chance of violence in the streets would be significantly reduced.





# TONY STARK DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D.

In the US government's eyes, Iron Man single-handedly ended the Super Hero Civil War. He was a maverick leader, reminiscent of SHIELD directors past, and the perfect spokesman for a bold new era.



While inspecting Blip's rumored last-known whereabouts, Iron Man and his allies appeared to suffer attack by unknown induced explosion.



Weekly "Iron Man" began was Stark's right-hand man for years. Working like director lead the government agency in its prime eye, then Stark had a hard time filling that role for Tony Stark, and even attempted to transfer his resignation.

## THE NEW BOSS

It was tense for a while, but Stark has a way of putting his employees at ease. Promoted to be the director of the world's foremost peacekeeping agency SHIELD because of his uncompromising, pro-government stance during the Super Hero Civil War, Stark faced plenty of criticism from SHIELD agents still loyal to their legendary past director, Nick Fury. However, one by one, Tony began to win his men over. With simple innovations such as a suggestion box outside the cafeteria, doing away with the exclusive officers' club, hiring an executive chef for the mess hall, and a hands-on work ethic, Stark proved himself to his men, and topped morale at the same time. He even managed to cut operational costs by \$19.8 million in the first fiscal quarter alone. It was official. Like everything else in his life that he put his mind to, Stark seemed to have another success on his hands.

Tony Stark's first major operational test soon arrived. Various terrorist inhibitor groups were getting their hands on highly advanced technology. Misinterpreted by Tony Stark, SHIELD's investigation pointed to one man, a mysterious terrorist named Kamen Maheshwari Nagesh, who had been missing for four months.



When the SHIELD inhibitor was attacked by a living cancer, Tony used the Extremis technology in his own body in order to eradicate the plague.



With increasing loyalty from SHIELD, Tony Stark and Sam Dum Bagan, Stark's directorship was beginning to resemble the Stark approach everything from a hands-on perspective. Despite his colleagues' occasional protests.

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## THE MANDARIN'S PLAN



**THE MANDARIN DISCOVERED**  
Nagesh located Iron Man's old enemy, the Mandarin, and proposed an alliance. However, one of Nagesh's men switched his loyalties and shot his boss in order to aid his new master, the Mandarin.



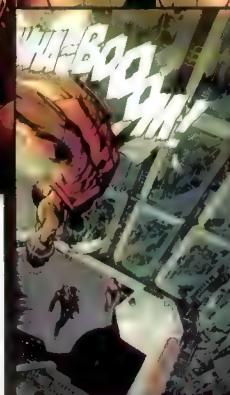
**THE LIVING CANCER**  
While examining one of the high-tech terrorists, scientist Maya Hansen stumbled upon a living cancer that took over the SHIELD inhibitor. The cancer killed Tony's friend and advisor Sal Kennedy before Iron Man was able to stop it.



**MAYA'S FAKED SUICIDE**  
In order to work in secret in her controversial Extremis technology, Maya Hansen faked her own death and took a job with the mysterious Prometheus Biotech company. Little did Tony's former girlfriend realize that the Mandarin was Prometheus's CEO.



**THE MANDARIN'S EXTREMIS AGENDA**  
Funding the random terror acts, creating the army of undead cyborgs, and releasing the plague on the Helicarrier was all just misdirection. The Mandarin, using the alias Ten Hovigen, really wanted Maya's Extremis technology, and he would stop at nothing to get it.



## TONY STARK: SUPERSPY

He was the CEO of Stark Industries, the armored crime fighter Iron Man, the leader of the Mighty Avengers, and the organizer of the 60 State Initiative and the Order. And now, Tony had taken on the role of the ultimate superspy. Never content with the number of pots on his personal fire, Iron Man began to lead covert operations for SHIELD to all corners of the globe, including missions to the corrupt island nation of Madripoor and the eastern European country of Khrushchev.

After discovering Maya was still alive, Iron Man led a successful assault on the Mandarin's headquarters, and halted the world's planned Extremis plague. Unfortunately, the Mandarin once again eluded capture.

# The Mighty Avengers

The Civil War was over, but the world needed its heroes now more than ever. And no one was more aware of this fact than the newly appointed SHIELD Director, Tony Stark.

## THE CHOSEN ONES

With his old ally Mr. Marvel at his side as field captain, Iron Man set out to choose a core team of Mighty Avengers to stand as shining examples to the superhuman community. With hundreds of candidates to pick from, Iron Man settled on a roster consisting of the unbalanced powerhouse known as the Sentry, the God of War Ares, super spy Black Widow, the iconic-energy-powered Wonder Man, and the diminutive Wasp.

## Mole Man Attacks

Before the team had a chance to train as a group, they were forced to combat the Mole Man and his legions of subterranean monsters, as the villain orchestrated an attack on downtown Manhattan.

## Familiar Faces

The Mighty Avengers were completely dumbfounded. They had just watched their lauded leader transform into a female version of their greatest android foe, Ultron. And not only that, this Ultron bore a striking resemblance to long-time Avenger, the Wasp. As Ultron shrugged off the most brutal attacks from Ares and the Sentry, SHIELD agents were busy locating Ultron's creator, the scientist and former Avenger, Henry Pym. With Pym's help, the Avengers learned that Ultron had also taken over Tony's experimental weather controlling satellite technology.

In the middle of their violent conflict with the Mole Man, Iron Man's armor suddenly began to hum. It had melded itself into the clings of a female Ultron.

## Dealing with the Mole Man

With a single thought, Ultron melted Mole Man's armor, eradicating his savage army as easily as swatting a fly. With the villain's threat now annihilated, Ultron turned her attention to her true mission.

## Ultron's Agenda

Ultron desired nothing less than the extinction of all of mankind. As she continued to cause freak weather patterns and electrical interference, the old Avengers' foe began to attempt to hack into the launch codes of several nuclear missile stations.

## Stark Restored

When Iron Man transformed into Ultron, Tony's contingency plan was activated, summoning a robot aide in order to assist the crisis at hand. But despite Tony's help, seemingly beyond the grave, Ultron commanded hundreds of other Iron Man suits, and pit them against the Avengers. Finally, thanks to Ares' brute strength and Hank Pym's Ant-Man technology, Ultron was defeated, restoring Tony Stark to his normal, human form.

Such was Ultron's power, she was able to take down the Mole Man's forces as well as the Avengers. She also managed to cause a blackout on a global scale.



**Iron Man had a dream for a secure nation. A team of government-regulated Super Heroes in every state, trained and ready to tackle any emergency.**

## A SUPER ARMY

It was hoped that America's borders were made  
as our table. In forty States, every time should  
carry a license and come to the same amount of  
training that other public protesters seek in the military  
or police are required to undergo. He hoped that, with  
the good amount of guidance and instruction, protesters  
like the emphasis of standards, would be  
a violent negotiator.

As the newly appointed director of the police academy for the SRI, I felt obliged to create forms of experiential exercises and a three- to four-training camp for new recruits. I established the Stamford-based Camp Hammond's, a five-day camp. I recruited several police officers from the West Coast states and the U.S., including my best friend, Jim Maxwell, an ex-Bombardier and an Army pilot. We stayed at the same camp throughout the training, and I learned a lot from him about the California, and former New Warriors and Avengers, a lot.



## SCARLET SPIDERS

After the American Civil War, abandoned Spiders became king of the Super. After Civil War, he had also given up wearing the Spider costume that he had developed for him. Now he was all to speaking and go to war. He has even met Peter Parker, instead of the relative Spider imitator. The Shadow, status in the past, the Spider costume. He attacked and captured Spider with the cyborgs. Volume 1 changed from this point. Spider's Aunt quite trusted her grandson, with Machine and high speed movements, the Shadow system provided with the most, tracing, detection, and the hero and villain of the Spider valued the terms of the Superhero as Registration Act.



## DIRECTOR RHODES

On the night of the murder, says a friend of the victim, the couple were being entertained at the house. Instead of the usual dinner and dessert, however, a game of hide-and-seek for liberty was there, and the young lady hid herself in the room, naturally where Lincoln discovered her. And the source who created the notion was in no better an insulating block by the thick War Machine and was as informed as ever.

## STARK'S CONFESSION

They also had a long history of trying to regulate the Super Hero community. Six years after the film, after a series of quality control problems and demands for more control of general or the Super Hero movie line, Marvel hoped that this would be the final event that would show them it wasn't right in their differences and fighting with the "new" movie.

After attending it this time, they felt it was not the best in industry and not a good idea. They knew that the Marvel movie was personally one of the mistakes you'd have to back in this war for time.

**War Machine**  
wouldn't allow  
his untested new  
recruits on the  
front line against  
rampaging Hulk.





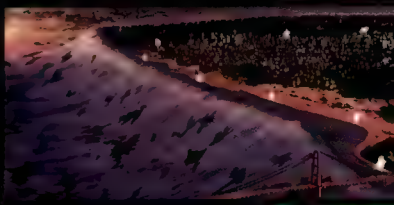
Milo Fields  
SUPERBUT



Not recognizing Tony Stark's authority, Hammer surrendered to Anthony's intellect.

## ATLANTIS ATTACKS

After defeating the Soviet Super-Soldiers, an army of undead cyborgs, and the red-hot threat known as the Infernal Man, the Order was starting to gain respect and trust. Unfortunately, raised public expectations put more pressure on the team when Atlantis chose to attack the US by positioning a wall of ocean water around San Francisco that threatened to engulf the city. Luckily, Anthony negotiated with Atlantis's ruler Namor, and averted this catastrophe by outwitting the arrogant monarch.



## BLACK DAHLIAS

A brutal street gang from Muholand Black's past, the super-powered Black Dahlias soon emerged in the Order's lives. Working with the clandestine operation SHADOW, Muholand's former friends began targeting past members of the Order. The Dahlias helped SHADOW kidnap Muholand Black, and shut off her powers. But Muholand had been born a mutant, and tapping into her dormant natural abilities. More powerful than before, Muholand attempted to free herself until she was rendered unconscious by SHADOW's true mastermind.



Muholand was taken captive by her ex-girlfriend who still had an axe to grind with her former lover.

## THE MEN FROM SHADOW



General Sam Solly, the man supposedly in charge of SHADOW actually died in 1957, allowing Ezekiel Stone to co-opt his old base.

It was becoming a predictable pattern. Everywhere the Order went, the MEN from SHADOW would appear. Parity's a government-sponsored program. SHADOW attacked the Order's members on several fronts. Only after he had prevented Muholand Black's escape did the SHADOW's mastermind stand revealed as Ezekiel Stone, the man of Iron Man's most deadly enemy.



Created in Solly's image, the robotic life model decays of the deceased general served as Stone's henchman, allowing him to remain hidden from the public.

## A CITY IN CHAOS

Ezekiel Stone wanted nothing less than to destroy everything Tony Stark had ever touched. And the Order was right in his way. Assembling Muholand Black's last ally, Louis Arqueson, to that all-winded hawk, Stone's plan and watched the Order struggle to save the city. After heavy reinforcements, Anthony was forced to take Muholand's side, and to destroy the base. It was safe, and the surviving members of the Order were sent to the city. But Ezekiel Stone was still out there.



# WORLD WAR HULK



**"I need you to keep everybody clear of the combat zone. This is MY fight."**

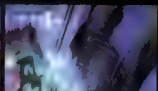
*Iron Man*

**They thought they could get away with sending the Hulk into space. They were dead wrong.**

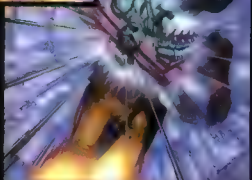


## PLANET HULK

The madder the Hulk gets, the stronger he gets—and the greater his potential, too. The Green Goliath was just too unpredictable to be allowed to roam free, and too powerful to cage. Working with the rest of the elite heroes known as the Illuminati, and with the participation of Nick Fury and SHIELD, Iron Man helped to seal the Hulk to another planet. But after claiming this exotic new world for himself, and taking a queen there, Hulk's spaceship suddenly exploded, killing the love of his life. Now, he wanted revenge on the Illuminati, and on Stark and his people.



The Hulk and his allies, the Illuminati, arrived in the planet of the future, only to find it was a wasteland. The Hulk refused to leave, and the Illuminati decided to seal him away. But the Hulk was not alone. He had a queen.



Iron Man injured the Hulk with his repulsor beams, but the Hulk's rage was too overpowering for any human, no matter how well armed.

## LOSING THE WAR

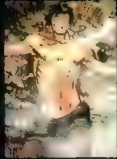
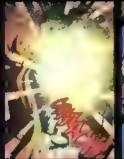
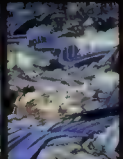
In a moment of overwhelming rage, the Hulk leaped at Iron Man, knocking the two of them into Avengers Tower. There Hulk pounded away at Stark, hammering the Sentry's watchtower straight through the center of Tony's impressive skyscraper. It was a demonstration of pure might and unrestrained will. The Hulk had won. He had defeated Iron Man, mankind's protector.

But the Hulk wasn't through yet. After beating the Avengers, Mr. Fantastic and his entire Fantastic Four, the Hulk set his sights on Earth's scariest supreme, Dr. Strange. The struggle was soon over. The Hulk had taken his captives, and even conquered the US military. Now it was time for the Illuminati to pay.

One by one, the Hulk forced the captured Illuminati members to battle each other in a makeshift gladiatorial arena in New York's Madison Square Garden. But even as an armor-less Iron Man fought Mr. Fantastic, his mind was elsewhere, working on a plan. And luckily for Tony, the cavalry arrived, giving him enough time to bring it about.

Before Iron Man had gone off to battle the Hulk, he'd petitioned the powerful hero Sentry for help. The Sentry had finally made up his mind. He attacked the Hulk with the strength of hundreds of exploding stars. After a violent display, the Sentry succeeded in transferring the Hulk back into Bruce Banner by the sheer force of his impacting fists. Given enough time to act, Iron Man then fired a satellite weapon at the Hulk, taking the brute down for good.

Widened in the path of his conquered planet, the Hulk sought revenge for the death of his queen. However when the Hulk finally learned that Iron Man and the Illuminati weren't responsible for the explosion of his spaceship and his wife's death, the fight was finally taken out of him.



[1]

[2]

[3]

[4]

[5]

[6]

The Hulk sought revenge on the four core members of the Illuminati: Iron Man, Mr. Fantastic, Dr. Strange, and Black Bolt. After slaying on the scene to defeat and capture Black Bolt, the Hulk's next step was to destroy the Illuminati, where he was greeted by Iron Man in appropriate fashion.





# EZEKIEL STANE

## 21ST-CENTURY TERRORISM

in the African town of Lubumbashi, a group of girls happily played with their first cell phone. Sour the next terminal turned to terror when they young men rushed to the center of town yelling and exposing vulgar technology in back of their chests. And then they promptly exploded.



## MONEY TO BURN

Chen's story, which was a long time in the making, was not without its own problems. Working for years after a previous job, he found a new world of possibilities but, at the same time, a different market to break a market that he already had a good feel for. He said that, coming across Asia, he had been studying while he had been away, but, upon returning to his country, he was not only a foreigner but also a foreigner in his own



## TAKING AIM AT TONY



Ezekiel Stone hated Tony Stark and everything he stood for, and he was determined to take it all away from him. The son of Tony's former rival Obadiah Stone, Ezekiel had already spent much time and energy making the members

of Tony's pet project the Order (California's hero team in the 50 State Initiative) run the proverbial gauntlet. Now he was ready to stop messing around and go for the jugular.

engineered Stark technology to convert his own body into a deadly weapon, Stane had begun selling the same dangerous tech to any terrorist willing to pay his rather hefty bill. Responsible not only for the tragedy in Tishom,

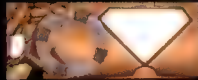
but for other outrages all over the globe, Ezekiel headed to Taiwan, to personally observe his man bombing a Starkdynamics gale. He introduced himself to Tony at the gale moments before the bomb went off.



## At Health's Door

Tony saved himself from the explosion at the gala by summoning his ban ban sword just in time. Unfortunately, his assistant Pepper Potts didn't fair as well. Although she survived the attack, Pepper was critically injured, forcing Tony to implant a device in her chest that would prevent anyone from piercing her heart.

To save Pepper's life, they had to use similar state-of-the-art magnetic technology that had once saved his son.



Having shunned Pepper in favor of a bevy of beautiful socialites just minutes before the explosion at Starbucksmen, they felt horribly guilty for her injuries. When it came to her recovery, he served absolutely no purpose.



Not only did Stone survive the explosion as well, but he began to develop a body armor to help supplement his enhanced abilities.

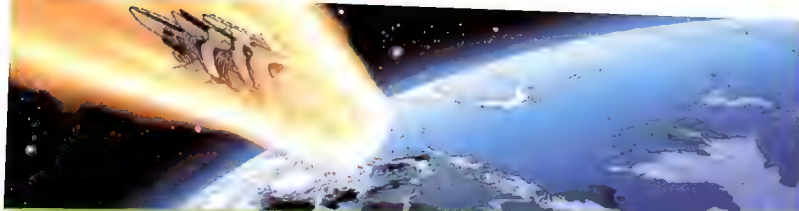
Emblel was younger, more ambitious, and utilized technology even more advanced than Tony's. He was (see May 22,

## Ezekiel Stane vs. Stark Industries

Starkdynamics had just been an appetizer. Now it was time for Ezekiel's main course. While hiding in plain sight on a tour of Stark's Long Island facility, Stane wandered away from the group. After attacking an empty Iron Man suit operated by remote control, Stane found himself surrounded by some of Tony's newest Iron Man models. Joining his remote armies in person, Tony overpowered Stane, and nearly succumbed to his darker impulses by ending his young enemy's life. However, Stark's true colors showed through, and he pulled his punches just enough so that Stane could be taken into SHIELD custody, very much alive—and already plotting his revenge.

Ezekiel Stane was not only a haunting reminder of Tony Stark's tragic past, but also a terrifying glimpse into a future that lurked just around the corner.





# SECRET INVASION

The Skrulls were everywhere. They had all but conquered Earth, and humanity didn't even know it yet.

## REED DISCOVERS THE KEY

When Reed Richards of Fantastic Four discovered the Skrull invasion, he was the only one who knew. He was the only one who knew that the Skrulls were everywhere. He was the only one who knew that the Skrulls were everywhere. He was the only one who knew that the Skrulls were everywhere.

A race of warlike shape-shifters, the alien Skrulls were masters of espionage. They sat their sights on Earth and strategically placed covert sleeper agents among the populace. They believed that the battle for the planet was almost won before a shot had been fired.



## JARVIS THE SKRULL

As the Skrull invasion of Earth began, Jarvis was the only one who knew. He was the only one who knew that the Skrulls were everywhere. He was the only one who knew that the Skrulls were everywhere. He was the only one who knew that the Skrulls were everywhere.



## UNDER SIEGE

As the Skrull invasion of Earth began, Jarvis was the only one who knew. He was the only one who knew that the Skrulls were everywhere. He was the only one who knew that the Skrulls were everywhere. He was the only one who knew that the Skrulls were everywhere.



## SECRET WARRIORS

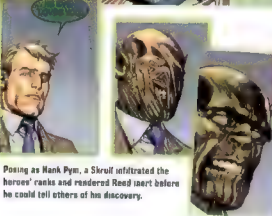
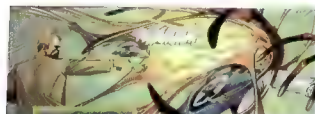
When things seemed most bleak in the battle for Times Square, disgraced former SHIELD Director Nick Fury appeared in public for the first time in months. Along with a ragtag team of Secret Warriors, Fury rescued the defeated Young Avengers.



## TONY GETS THE BUG

As the Skrull invasion of Earth began, Jarvis was the only one who knew. He was the only one who knew that the Skrulls were everywhere. He was the only one who knew that the Skrulls were everywhere. He was the only one who knew that the Skrulls were everywhere.

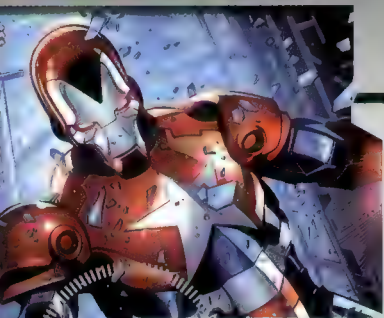
## THE WAR IS OVER



Posing as Hank Pym, a Skrull infiltrated the heroes' ranks and rendered Reed inert before he could tell others of his discovery.



After commandeering an Iron Man suit of armor, Norman Osborn repainted it to reflect Captain America's colors in a bid to gain public support



Comprised of villains in disguise and two of the Mighty Avengers' more easily manipulated former members, Osborn's twisted perversion of the Avengers was born.

**He was a killer, kidnapper, and Super Villain. But that was before the Secret Invasion. Now Norman Osborn was America's favorite son.**

# Iron Patriot



To the general public, Norman Osborn was a nation's savior; the hero who swooped in and saved the race, as coded the Secret Invasion—the attempt by the alien empire Skrull to conquer Earth—while, singly by act, Osborn had restored the nation's order of things to the place it had been. It would be a hard and service to his country with the job of heading a new government pack keeping together TIAMMIR. The man with more money than God now had a career, a woman power. Norman Osborn had everything loaded.

Well, not quite everyone. Every political supporter, his share of investors, and though Osborn was well regarded in most households, a handful of people remained skeptical of his intentions. Counting among the number was the majority of the Super Hero community to they and witnessed Osborn's true colors, especially.

Years ago before he became a reformed government employee at the helm of the Thunderbolts program, Norman Osborn used to sport a green mask and tight suit, calling himself the Green Goblin. Levers of all at chaos and destruction in his wake. He had frequently clashed with Spider-Man, even throwing the city's girl into off-balance. As the Green Goblin, Norman Osborn had achieved many as one of the most brilliant criminal masterminds ever to play Manhattan.

But that was before the Secret Invasion, and before Osborn had led the Thunderbolts into a well-orchestrated battle against the Skrull invaders. It was Norman Osborn who made the kill shot head-on and the worst, taking down the Skrull Queen. And so Norman Osborn was a Hero. America could not be less so.

Osborn was able to convince the mentally unbalanced Sentry to fight by his side.



### KEY DATA

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

Common Director of Mammals, US of  
Game, "Beaver" edited

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**Therapeutics, The Mind, History, Politics**

**FOURTEENTH** As the Iron Patriot, Saboteur presumably has all of Iron Man's technology at his disposal, possessing the same powers and abilities as the original Golden Avenger. Saboteur-level artificial intellect. Enhanced strength, increased speed, reflexes, and endurance owing to signature Golden Fortitude. Access to the advanced weaponry of the Iron Saboteur, including grenades and "public-sider."

# Dark Avengers



## Iron Man Against the World

Tony Stark had lost everything but his friends. As the result of the alien Skrulls infecting all Stark technology with a crippling virus, Stark Industries was on the verge of financial ruin. The public considered Iron Man little more than a bumbling incompetent, and the Super Hero community was still divided about his uncompromising stance during the Civil War. Besides his former SHIELD colleague Maria Hill and friend Pepper Potts, Tony didn't seem to have many allies left. But Jim Rhodes, alias War Machine, proved his loyalty to his old friend by staging a fight with Iron Man and allowing him to escape.

When he refused to comply with a corrupt government, Iron Man soon became the world's most wanted.



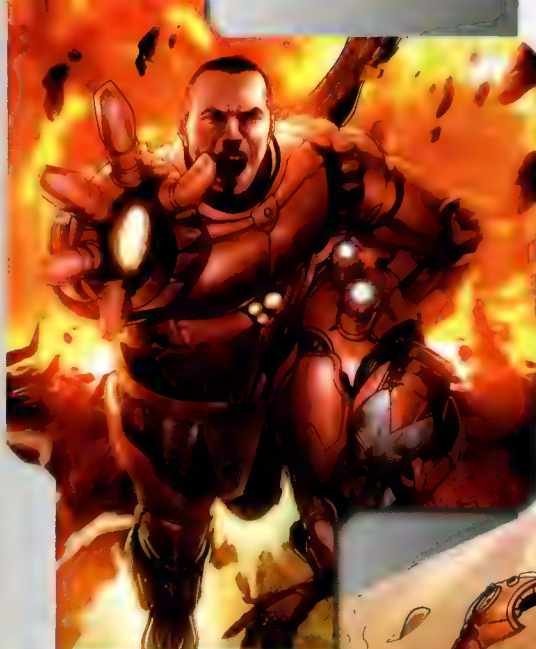
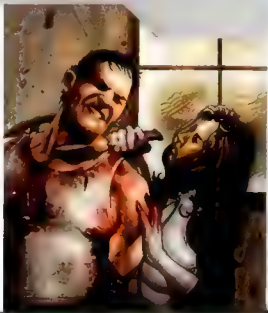
When he merged with the Extremis virus, Stark's mind became a living computer. With the only record of the Super Hero Registration database locked in his brain, Stark was forced to run from the law.

# IRON MAN: FUGITIVE

The Secret Invasion was over and the villainous Norman Osborn had surprisingly saved the day. Already a trusted government employee for his work with the Super Hero team known as the Thunderbolts, Osborn easily outshined Iron Man in what was arguably Earth's greatest crisis: Arrogant and chemically imbalanced, Osborn replaced Tony Stark as Director of the newly formed agency H.A.M.M.R. It wasn't long before he began ruthlessly exploiting it's power. But before Osborn could get his hands on the database that contained all the Initiative's records of Super Hero secret identities, Stark destroyed the file and went into hiding.

## A NO-BRAINER

As always, Tony didn't have a lot of choices. He had to either hide or fight. He chose to fight. He knew that the only way to survive was to keep his enemies from finding him. And that meant he had to keep his enemies from finding him. And that meant he had to keep his enemies from finding him. And that meant he had to keep his enemies from finding him.



After outfitting Pepper Potts with her own iron suit dubbed Rescue, Tony was forced to adopt the armor of the Crimson Dynamo when one of his Iron Man suits was destroyed.

## THE IRON PATRIOT

Even when he knew he had a role to play in Tony Stark's masterpiece, even the villains. As Pepper Potts discovered a suit of armor built especially for her and Maria Hill embarked on a mission to recover, Spider-Man, Iron Man's ally, found himself in a tight spot. Iron Man's ally, found himself in a tight spot. Iron Man's ally, found himself in a tight spot. Iron Man's ally, found himself in a tight spot.

## FULL CIRCLE

When he refused to comply with a corrupt government, Iron Man soon became the world's most wanted. When he refused to comply with a corrupt government, Iron Man soon became the world's most wanted. When he refused to comply with a corrupt government, Iron Man soon became the world's most wanted.



Despite losing a fight to the Iron Patriot, Tony had secretly won. His mind was reduced to a comatose state, and Osborn had lost any hope of recovering his secrets. But somewhere, the heroes were gathering with Tony's prized intel. And they, too, had a plan.

# KEY ISSUE

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**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Joe Quesada

**COVER ARTIST**

Salvador Larroca

**WRITER**

Matt Fraction

**ARTIST**

Salvador Larroca

**COLORIST**

Frank D'Armata

**LETTERER**

Joe Caramagna

# IRON MAN Vol. 5 #10

**"And while you're there doing your thing...  
and Pepper is at Stark doing her thing...  
I'm doing my thing and running like hell."**

TONY STARK

**MAIN CHARACTERS:** Iron Man; Maria Hill; Pepper Potts; Iron Patriot (Norman Osborn)

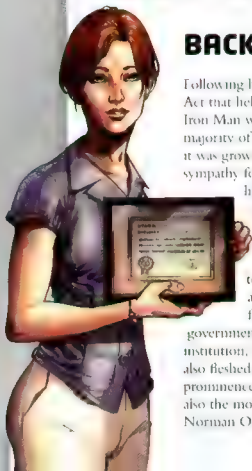
**SUPPORTING CHARACTERS:** Kat Farrell; Victoria Hand; HAMMER employees

**LOCATIONS:** Stark Industries; Funtime, Inc.; Restoration Park, NYC; Chicago; Los Angeles; Rome; Berlin; Hong Kong; Seattle

## BACKGROUND

Following his support of the Superhuman Registration Act that helped spark the Civil War between heroes, Iron Man was almost being regarded as a villain by the majority of the heroes in the Marvel Universe. As such, it was growing harder and harder for writers to create sympathy for the character, or to paint him in a heroic light. Tony Stark was in need of an adventure or two that would restore his previous status as a modern-day knight in shining armor.

So when writer Matt Fraction helped relaunch Iron Man's fifth series, he looked to Tony's long and storied history, charm, and good nature to restore the hero to his former glory. By turning Iron Man from a government employee to a noble fugitive from that same institution, Fraction superbly achieved his aim. Fraction also fleshed out Tony's supporting cast, giving new prominence to longtime love interest Pepper Potts, and also the most recent villain to challenge Tony's legacy, Norman Osborn.



# 186-187



# The Story...

With her boss, Tony Stark, on the run from Norman Osborn and his secretly-formed HAMMER organization, Pepper Potts stumbles upon an Iron Man suit tailor-made just for her.

Blamed for not anticipating the recent invasion of the alien Sierula, Tony Stark had been proclaimed a criminal by Norman Osborn, the Director of a new government security organization named HAMMER. He was now on the run, and his former, computer-based Iron Man powers had been shut down. Furthermore, Tony possessed the only copy of the Superhuman Registration data files, a directory of every hero's secret identity, downloaded into his brain, and was forced to slowly delete his intelligence in order to make sure that Osborn never got his villainous hands on them. And yet, despite all this mayhem, Tony Stark had a plan, and he was determined to see it out.

While Norman Osborn engaged in the latest of a number of press conferences regarding Iron Man's fugitive status (1), Pepper Potts was doing her best to figure out why Tony Stark had just recently placed her in charge of Stark Industries (2). The former multi-billion-dollar national conglomerate had been reduced to a virtually bankrupt shell staffed by a skeleton crew. Tony's company was dying, and it seemed that Pepper's job was simply to pull the plug.

Meanwhile, at one of Tony Stark's subsidiaries, Funtime, Inc., Tony and his former right-hand woman at SHIELD, Maria Hill, were discussing their plans now that Osborn had made both of them into wanted criminals. Tony needed Maria to break into his Futurepharm plant in Austin, Texas and, using a jump drive (3) locate a hard drive containing crucial information. She should then take the hard drive to Captain America. Maria agreed and, knowing that she might be embarking on her very last mission, kissed Tony. Overcome by passion, Tony and Maria forgot grim reality for a few brief moments.

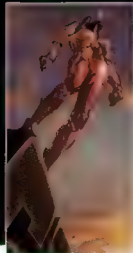
Back at Stark Industries, Pepper was growing ever more frustrated with the responsibilities of her new position (4). In a fit of rage, she threw her chair across the room, knocking a framed picture askew. And that's when she discovered just why Tony had placed her in charge of his company. She had accidentally tripped a trigger that opened a panel to a secret room. Inside this futuristic chamber was a female version of the Iron Man armor, made to fit Pepper's body (5).

But Pepper wouldn't be the only person trying out an Iron Man suit that day. Across town, in the newly christened Restoration Park, Norman Osborn was hosting yet another press conference, this time held in a suit of armor appropriated from Stark Tower: a red, white, and blue version of Iron Man's own suit (6). With the public now referring to him as the Iron Patriot, Osborn announced that since Tony had failed to meet him at this public forum, he had ordered the seizure of all of Tony's companies all over the world. He was going to bring Tony Stark to justice (7).

Of course, Osborn wouldn't get everything. Back at Funtime, Inc., Maria Hill was busy blowing up the main building, ensuring that dozens of Iron Man suits wouldn't fall into the wrong hands (8). And as Tony Stark flew through the sky in one of his older suits of armor to continue his mission, yet another Iron Man suit was escaping Osborn's clutches. Because back on Long Island, on the rooftop of Stark Industries, Pepper Potts stood in her new suit of armor, about to take to the skies for the first time, realizing that there would truly be no turning back now (9).

**"Oh, I think going bonkers is completely imperative."**

**Tony Stark**



# Alternative Realities

# Iron Man 2093

Tony Stark is the world's premier futurist. But when a mystical artifact transported him alongside Doctor Doom into the future, he was forced to face a future he couldn't even predict what life would be like in that possible future world. Summoned by Merlin, an ancient magician of Arthurian lore, Iron Man headed out into space to check on a possible future world.

Iron Man's quest to find out what the future held turned out to be a much more difficult task than he had anticipated. With his armor augmented by advanced technology from a local "stealing" mall, Iron Man came into conflict with his future descendant, Andrei Stark. The grandson of Iron Stark, the Iron Man of the future, Andrei was leading a nation across to bring the population of Earth. As Tony trailed Andrei back to his lair, he realized that his marvelous descendant would be a threat to his life and to his legacy as a much older version of Doctor Doom.

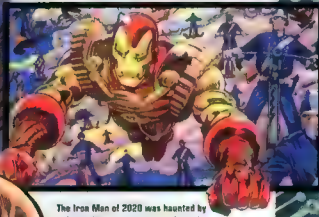
With the help of the legendary guard Enkidu, Iron Man promised our his self future counterpart was as a younger Doctor Doom destroyed his future self. The two men were then sent back to their own present, with no memory of their adventures.



# MARVEL ADVENTURES

in the myriads of dimensions and possible timelines, there are many other Iron Men. Some exist in futures that may yet come to pass, others in alternate realms similar to the world we know. In the simpler universe of Marvel Adventures, Tony Stark's life is a bit less complicated. In that world, Tony's heart was damaged not in an explosion caused by insurgent forces, but when he was lying on experimental plans that were brought down by AIM. While the result was still the birth of Iron Man, the Tony of the Marvel Adventures universe isn't tormented by the alcohol addiction that plagues his more familiar counterpart.

The Iron Man of the Marvel Adventures universe once made a completely steam-powered suit of armor when facing a Super Villain named Jett in a technology-free village.



The Iron Man of 2020 was haunted by his inability to live up to the legends of his predecessor, Tony Stark.

## Iron Man 2020

In a 2002 lawsuit filed by Anne Stark, who was the half-sister of one of the assassins from Miami, the court ruled in favor of the Miami Police. Anne argued the Stark family was entitled to information about the father of the assassin, but the court ruled in favor of Miami, claiming by disclosing it, it would be a detriment to law enforcement efforts to find other assassins. After losing the battle with the court, Anne told *Miami* she pursued the request for change, but the *Waller* refused against a court order to return *Waller* to the Miami Police. In several other cases, women have

**"Great—you've turned yourself into the mightiest Super Hero of the nineteenth century!" Jolt**



# THE END

Tony Stark was falling asleep at the wheel. Too big to put at-richters at the drawing board, Tony began to wonder if he wasn't obsolete as Iron Man as well. When his slower reaction time led to him losing a battle with the Ultron-Dynamo, he began to search for an heir to carry on his legacy. Finding an ideal candidate in his employee Nick Twiss, Tony passed the torch on to the reluctant young man. Tony then retired from the spotlight, ready for a well-earned rest with his lovely wife, Betty Cuba.

Before they retired from his life of fighting crime, he kept his army as state-of-the-art as possible. It would transform around his body from a normal looking tritaceon, and was capable of morphing into a superionic configuration.



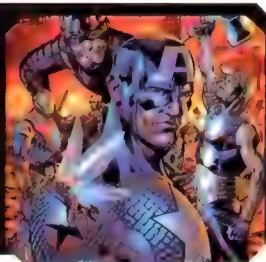
# Ultimate Iron Man

Separate from the world of the Tony Stark we know, there's a different Earth with a different Tony Stark. It's the **Ultimate Universe**, home of the **Ultimate Iron Man**.

In this alternate take on the lives of Earth's mightiest heroes, there's no such thing as the Avengers. In this dimension, the government assembled a familiar team of heroes to be the US's protectors. Spearheaded by SHIELD Director Nick Fury, the team operated out of a heavily fortified think tank off the coast of Manhattan called the **Triskelion**.

## The Ultimates

With the Ultimates, the government assembled a familiar team of heroes to be the US's protectors. Spearheaded by SHIELD Director Nick Fury, the team operated out of a heavily fortified think tank off the coast of Manhattan called the **Triskelion**.



The Ultimates wear costumes that reflected a more contemporary mindset, from Captain America's "wingsless" cowl, to Iron Man's yellow, gray, and red armor.



## The Never-ending Battle

From large-scale alien invasions, to an angry South Korea in Manhattan, to the machinations of the god Loki, the Ultimates proved worthy of their moniker on many occasions. The group expanded, adding members like the sharp-shooter Hawkeye, former criminals Spider-Man and the Scarlet Witch, and braver yet, Black Widow. Discredited as heroes in the eyes of the public, the team dropped their government clothes in favor of being independent, backed by the near-limitless finances of Tony Stark.

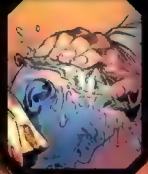
## The Origin of Ultimate Iron Man

When scientist Meeta Stark was contaminated by a lab monkey infected with a skin growing virus, she also discovered that she was pregnant. Inside her womb, the virus mutated her child, allowing him to grow neural tissue all over his body. So when Antonio Stark was born, the majority of his makeup was brain. Unfortunately, the virus also caused him constant agony.

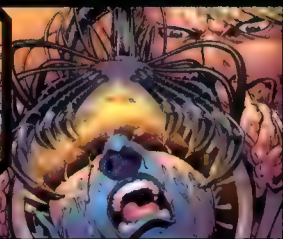
## Zebediah Stane

Howard Stark had a way of making enemies. When Howard outmaneuvered an attempted takeover of his company by his rival businessman Zebediah Stane, Stane never forgot the slight. Years later, Stane kidnapped a four-year-old Tony in order to steal information about the protective liquid armor the boy was still required to wear.

Howard soon tracked Stane down, but only after a brave Tony had been tortured at the criminal's hands.



Just the simple act of washing Tony's head with antiseptic soap caused the boy agonizing pain, similar to that of third-degree burns. Some contact with the air and with dust particles was too much for his sensitive neural tissue.



Call 9-1-1.  
Tony! I swear I didn't think you could burn.



Don't call doctor.

## Liquid Blue Armor

Howard Stark's liquid armor was a revolutionary piece of technology that allowed him to regenerate lost body parts, despite the pain, he made a full recovery and was able to continue his studies. All the while, Tony was working on a pet project. A better suit of armor. Something more along the lines of Iron...



Howard worked tirelessly to perfect the liquid armor that would relieve his son of the pain of daily life.

## Passage to Nanhoo

Tony tried his hardest to live a normal childhood. He enrolled in school, wearing new flesh-colored liquid armor, and did his best to fit in. However, with his firm moral conscience and willingness to stand up for the little guy, Tony found himself the victim of constant bullying. On one occasion, he even had his legs burned off when a fight got out of hand. However, Tony's liquid armor also allowed him to regenerate lost body parts, despite the pain, he made a full recovery and was able to continue his studies. All the while, Tony was working on a pet project. A better suit of armor. Something more along the lines of Iron...





# AFTERWORD

I didn't know much about Iron Man when I was growing up. In fact, my knowledge of Tony Stark was limited to a beaten up Secret Wars action figure and the contents of *Iron Man* #214, a story that focused more on Spider-Woman than it did the title character. Iron Man was just another face in a crowd of intriguing heroes that my extremely limited allowance prohibited me from pursuing. To be perfectly honest, I probably would have delved into his adventures a bit sooner, had the Distinguished Competition not released a feature film starring a certain Caped Crusader. But they did, and I was quickly drawn into the world of Gotham City, leaving Iron Man and his Avenger companions behind in favor of a less sunny coast.

Like many fans, I was reintroduced to Iron Man with Kurt Busiek's revamp of the character in 1998. And I finally started to realize what I'd been missing. This unique character, who had somehow stayed beneath my radar for so many years, had a wealth of great stories seemingly hidden from view. I'd missed work by some of comicdom's greatest writers. Creative minds like Denny O'Neil, Archie Goodwin and even Barry Windsor-Smith had lent their storytelling prowess to the Golden Avenger throughout his career, not to mention the classic work of David Michelinie and Bob Layton. I had a lot of catching-up to do.

Writing this book has given me the perfect excuse to delve even further into the life and times of Tony Stark. I'd like to thank the great design staff at DK and the patient folks in editorial who helped make this book the complete package that it is. Thanks also go to Matt Fraction for giving me a sneak peek into what's happening next, as well as to Mark Beazley, for continued access to his dangerously teetering stack of back issues. And, as always, I'd like to thank my wife Dorothy for her continued love and support, and for allowing me to work through the occasional evening's dinner.

In 2008, the first Iron Man feature film was released, stimulating the imagination and curiosity of thousands of new potential comic-book readers. Although *Iron Man* wasn't the only comic-book movie that came out that summer, it was easily my favorite. Nobody tell a certain Caped Crusader.

**MATTHEW K. MANNING**

September 2009











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